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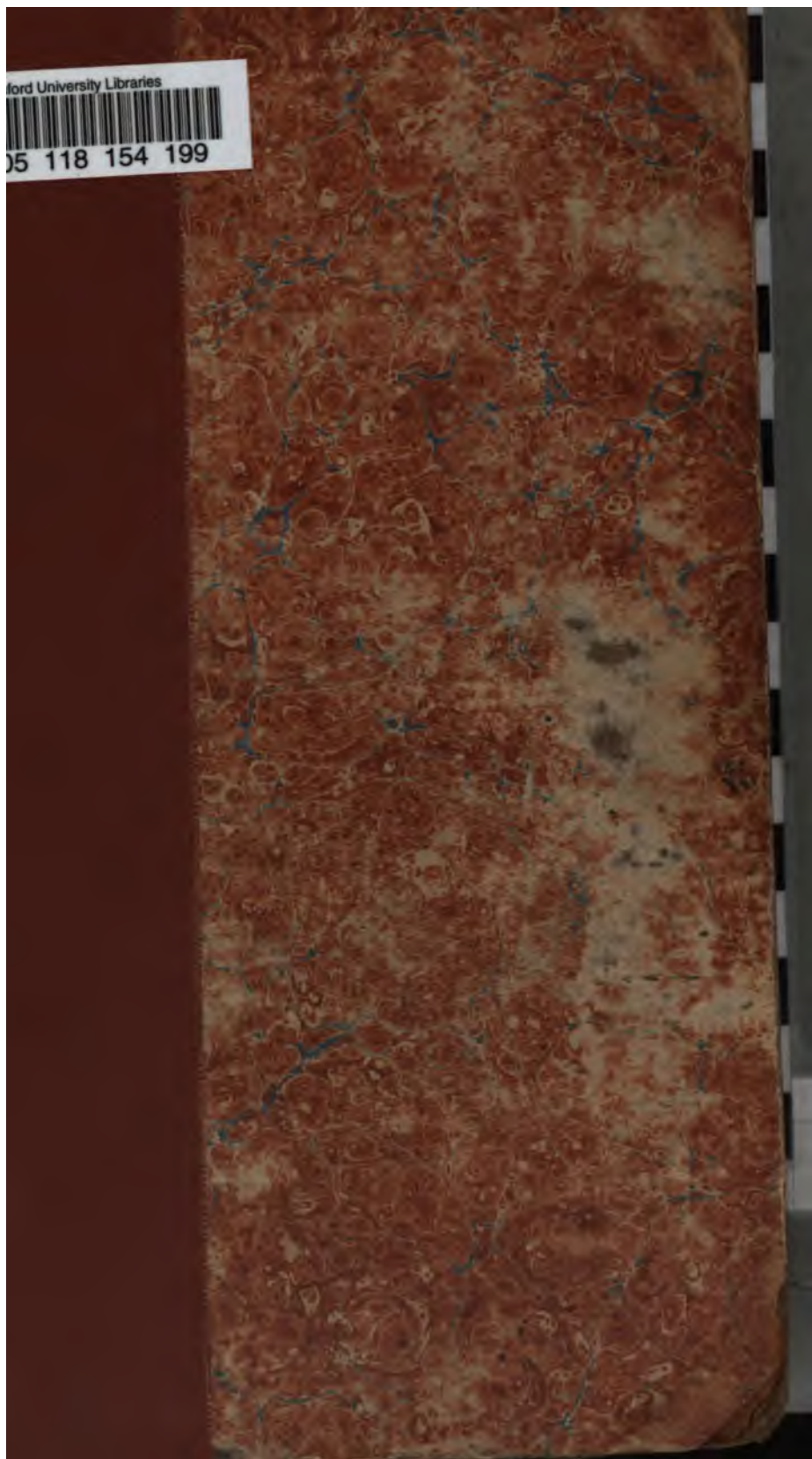
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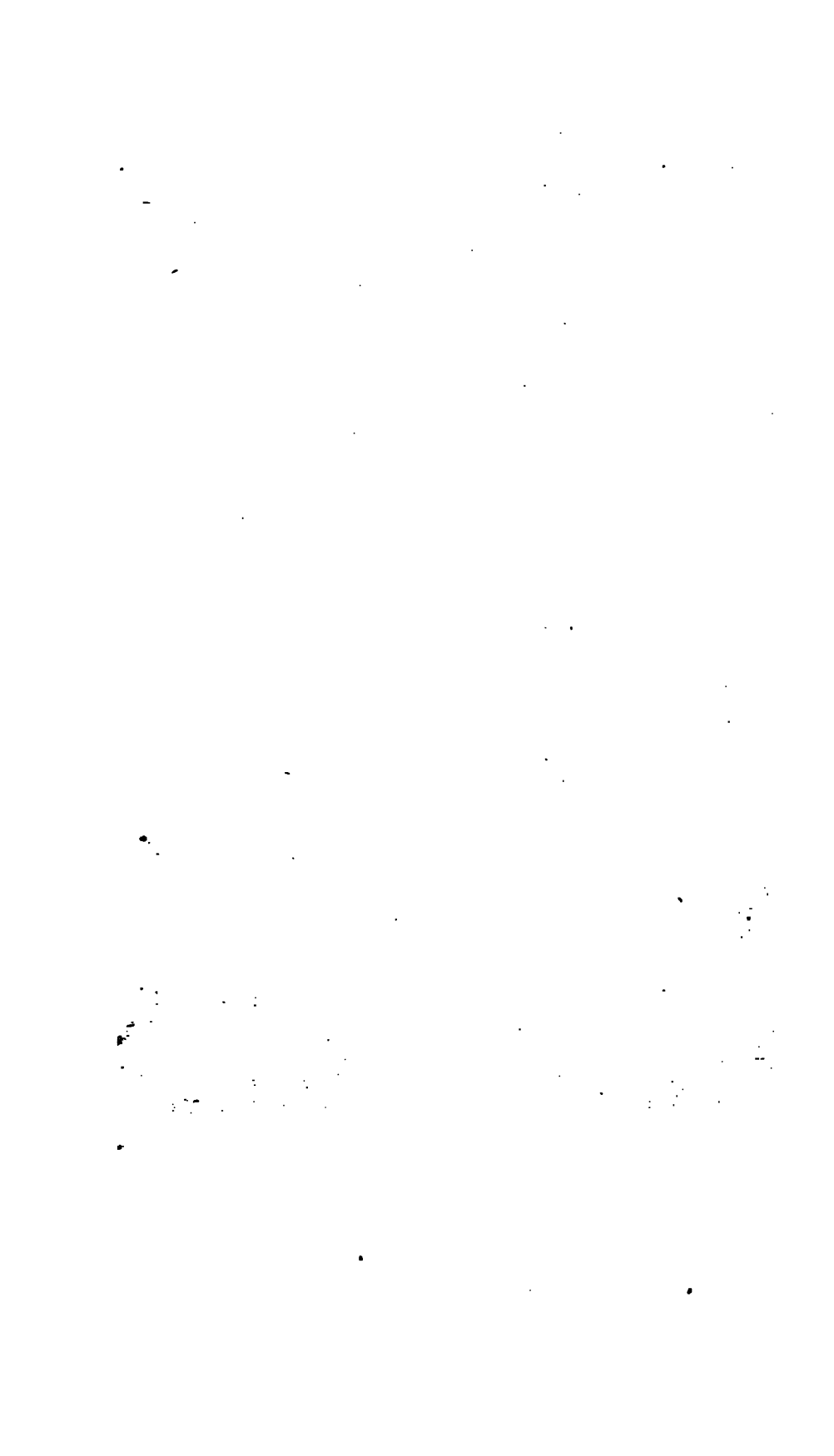
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ABBEY TOWER EVESHAM.
Warwickshire.

Printed by W. P. 1785.

THE
Beauties
of
ENGLAND AND WALES,
OR
DELINEATIONS
TOPOGRAPHICAL HISTORICAL
and
DESCRIPTIVE.
Vol. XV.



King John's Monument.
Worcester Cathedral.

Engraved by John Bury. Coloured by J. B. Bury.



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THE
BEAUTIES
OF
England and Wales:
OR,
ORIGINAL DELINEATIONS,
TOPOGRAPHICAL, HISTORICAL, AND DESCRIPTIVE,
OF
EACH COUNTY.

EMBELISHED WITH ENGRAVINGS.

COUNTIES:

WILTSHIRE,	WESTMORELAND, AND
WARWICKSHIRE,	WORCESTERSHIRE.

BY

J. BRITTON, F. S. A. — J. NORRIS BREWER; —
REV. J. HODGSON; — F. C. LAIRD.

VOL. XV.

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Where Art and Nature, ever-smiling, join
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PREFACE.

I **SUBMIT** to the public the following delineations of Warwickshire, with blended confidence and anxiety. I beg permission to say that I have used as much exertion as the most industrious of my co-adjutors, in endeavours to render this portion of the "Beauties of England" faithful and satisfactory. But the County of Warwick, is, in itself, so fertile of topographical interest; and is rendered an object of so much antiquarian curiosity by the justly-celebrated labours of its great historian, Sir William Dugdale; that it demands to be treated in a much more extended and comprehensive manner than the prescribed limits of the present undertaking can allow.

While I thus feel the necessity of requesting the Reader's indulgence for the haste with which I have been constrained, in instances too numerous, to tread over interesting ground, I am

1 convinced

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A 101







By W. B. Smith, from a drawing by J. B. Smith.

By the permission of the Right Hon. the Earl of Warwick.

ABBAY TOWER EVESHAM.
Worcestershire.

Printed and Sold by the Author, at the Church-Door, Evesham.

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convinced of the necessity of the restriction under which I have acted. I am thoroughly satisfied that the Publisher and Proprietors of the extensive Work of which this topographical essay forms a part, have used, and do continue to exercise, indefatigable pains, and great pecuniary liberality, in their efforts to render the publication conformable to the wish of the majority of their patrons, both as to extent and character.

While investigating the county, I had the honour of being received with kindness and attention by all to whom I found occasion to apply. I trust that I may be allowed thus publicly to return thanks to the **EARL OF WARWICK**, for the condescension and politeness with which he attended to several questions I took the freedom of proposing respecting his noble castellated mansion. I am equally impressed with gratitude by the attention with which I was honoured by the **EARL and COUNTESS of CRAVEN**, on my examination of Combe Abbey. I must, likewise, beg to acknowledge the very obliging conduct of **F. Parker Newdigate, Esq. of Arbury Hall**,

Mr. John Nickson, of Coventry ; the Rev. John Kendall, and Mr. Roe, of Warwick ; Mr. Wheler, the judicious historian of Stratford ; and Messrs. Beilby and Knott, of Birmingham, who are preparing

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paring for publication a new edition of Mr. Hutton's History of that Town ; are entitled, among other inhabitants of the county, to the best thanks it is in my power to offer.

The Reverend *Dr. Parr* is well known as the liberal friend of literature in general. I have to acknowledge the politeness with which he replied to the statement of a difficulty, which was, in itself, perhaps, little worthy of *his* consideration.

J. NORRIS BREWER.

Kennington,
November 1st, 1814.



THE
BEAUTIES
OF
England and Wales.

WARWICKSHIRE.

THE County of Warwick presents an interesting field to the topographer. An antiquary views with respect the district which engaged the labours of Dugdale; the commercial speculator is prepared to treat with regard a county whose manufactures add so largely to the stock of national wealth and importance; while every man must look with kindly inclination on that part of the island which produced England's great poetical ornament; for SHAKSPEARE appeals with success to the feelings and judgment of all! The antiquary, the philosopher, the statist, the trader, all concur in paying reverence to that master-genius who developed with equal felicity the beauties of Nature and the mazes of Art. Impressed with these opinions, I regret that the necessary limits of the present undertaking prevent my expatiating so largely as I would desire on so fertile a subject. Confined to *delineation*, I trust that, in every circumstance, my delineations will, at any rate, be found to possess fidelity.

When Julius Cæsar invaded Great Britain, and by introducing it to the notice of the more polished portion of the globe, be-

stowed a date on the first satisfactory page of its annals, two nations, or tribes, divided the soil of Warwickshire. These were the Cornavii, or Carnabii; and the Wigantes, or Wiccii. The Cornavii possessed all Staffordshire and Cheshire; those parts of Shropshire which lie to the north and east of the Severn; and small portions of Flintshire and Leicestershire.* Camden declines to form a conjecture respecting the origin of the name by which they are distinguished; but Mr. Whitaker observes, "that these, and the Britons of Cornwall in the south-western regions of the island, and those of Caithness in the north-eastern, are all equally called Carnabii by Richard. All of them were named, we may be sure, from some one striking circumstance of position or origin, which was common to them all. The Carnabii of Cornwall and Caithness inhabited a region exactly similar in this great particular, that, open upon one side, it narrowed gradually on the other, and shot out in a promontory into the sea. Such a projection the Britons called a *Kercenab*, or an horn of the sea. And from this, the common and significative characteristic of the two counties, the two tribes that possessed them would naturally be denominated. The Carnabii are expressly declared by Richard to have been originally situated in the neighbourhood of the Dee. And we have a region there similar to those of Cornwall and Caithness, open on one side, narrowing on the other, and shooting out into the sea."† The dominions of the Carnabii, as is further observed by the same writer, appear to have reached across the whole extent of Warwickshire, as that people enjoyed Bennonæ, or Cleychester, on the skirts of the neighbouring county of Leicester. They had for their capital, at the time of the Roman invasion, *Uriconium*, or Wroxeter, in Shropshire.

The Wigantes, or Wiccii, are the nation erroneously termed *Jugantes* by Tacitus. They were a warlike tribe, as is sufficiently

* To which, in the opinion of Horsley, may be added part of Derbyshire.

† History of Manchester, p. 148.

ently expressed by their name, which signifies a brave people. Besides their possessions in this county, their dominions extended over Worcestershire and the north of Gloucestershire. Brannogenium, or Worcester, is believed to have been their capital. Both these tribes maintained a strict friendship with their neighbours, the Iceni and Cor-Iceni, and were in some measure subjected to the Roman sway at the same period with those states by Ostorius Scapula, the second Roman governor of Britain.

Of the subsequent history of these British nations, while connected with the Romans, but little can now be satisfactorily ascertained. The Cornavii are the more frequently mentioned; and it appears, by the breviary of the western empire, that some of this people served under the later emperors. The Wiccii were permitted to remain under the government of a chieftain of their own nation, *Venusius*, a Briton conspicuous for bravery, who had married Cartismandua, Queen of the Brigantes in her own right. During the administration of Aulus Didius, the successor of Ostorius, Venusius induced the Wiccii to accord with him in joining the Silures, in opposition to the Romans. This breach of friendship led to the total conquest of the Wiccii, under the ensuing administration of Suetonius Paulinus, by whom the tract denominated *Arden*, was completely rendered subject to the Roman influence.

It was in the year 50 that Ostorius first visited the Arden of Warwickshire. He led his troops from the banks of the southern Onse, taking in his northward progress the course of the Watling Street, and probably fixing his encampments on the sites of British stations. In order to increase his security, and to extend the line of military communication, he constructed forts and entrenched camps along the banks of the rivers Avon and Severn. Few circumstances have been stated with more diversity of opinion than the number and situation of the great military stations constructed by the Romans in this county. We forbear to follow the various writers through their labyrinths of conjecture

ture, and rest contented with the few following remarks. As the woodland recesses of the district emphatically termed Arden now comprised the greater part of Warwickshire, and were chiefly inhabited by the Wiccian *Ceangi*, or herdsmen, Ostorius probably did not deem it expedient to fix any military station in the interior of the county on the north of the river Avon. His great Ardenian station was, assuredly, *Tripontium* (Lilborn, Northamptonshire, on the border of this county.) At High Cross was a second settlement, now included in the county of Leicester. Farther north, on the Watling Street, was *Manduessedum*, (Manchester.) The chain of camps on the Avon readily communicated with these places of military congregation; and at Warwick, nearly in the centre of the line, some writers have placed the *Præsidium* of the Romans: but this must still remain a subject of dispute among the ingenious. With greater security of foundation we may ascribe the honour of a Roman station to *Milcester*, on the Ickneild, or Ryknild, Street, in the south-west division of the county. Various minor works, connected with the military operations of this people, claim notice in an ensuing section; but we must not now dismiss the subject without observing that the second journey of Antoninus, from beyond the wall of Severus to Richborough in Kent, passes through this part of England, from north to south; but as he adhered strictly to the track of the great street, when on the confines of Warwickshire, he only gives in his Itinerary the name of one station—*Manduessedum*.

Cogidunus, who had been originally king of the Dobuni, was not only permitted by the Romans to retain nominal authority, or, in other words, to become an imperial legate, but had various extents of country added to his dominions. Among these was a part of Warwickshire; and he retained his titular supremacy to the days of Trajan. When Severus, in the beginning of the third century, divided the Roman territories in Britain into two provinces, the greater part of this county was comprehended in *Britannia Secunda*.

During the period between the secession of the Romans and the conquest of the midland district of England by the Saxons, the silence of historians respecting this tract induces us to suppose that the inhabitants wisely avoided civil contention. *Credda* was the first Saxon commander who obtruded on this peaceful disposition of the natives. On the formation of the heptarchy Warwickshire was constituted a part of the powerful kingdom of Mercia; and with this new political arrangement recommence those military details which form the gauds of ordinary history. The kings of Mercia often maintained the rude pomp of their court in this county. Tamworth was a favorite seat with several sovereigns, until that town was destroyed by the Danes. A charter of Burthwulf, king of Mercia, in the *Textus Roffensis*, is dated from *Villa Regalis Werburgewic* (Warwick.) Kingsbury was also a regal abode.*—Among the numerous conflicts produced by the ambition of those fresh invaders to which the country was now subject, the battle at Seckington is especially memorable. Here Ethelbald, the tenth king of Mercia, fought Cuthred, king of the West-Saxons, and was slain by Burgred, his own officer. The Danes committed great ravages in Warwickshire; and, in the course of their several irruptions, burned and destroyed the principal towns.

The war of the Roses forms the next great historical era. During this calamitous period the county, in common with most districts, was much divided in sentiment, and lost some of its best blood in the field, though it was fortunately not the immediate scene of any important action. As the chief members of the house of Nevill, of which the Earl of Warwick was a distinguished branch, supported the pretensions of the Duke of York, it will readily be supposed that the York faction was strong in the county. But in those infuriate days, when even families were divided in motive, no citizen could depend on the coincidence of a

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* According to tradition there was, likewise, a royal Saxon palace at *Offchurch*.

neighbouring sword. The town of Warwick was swayed by its Earl; but the city of Coventry had equally strong reasons for attachment to the house of Lancaster. Henry and Margaret had won the esteem of the inhabitants by frequent visits, and had conferred on them a particular favour, in constituting their city and some neighbouring parishes, a separate county. The citizens were firm in affection and gratitude. In 1460, when a strong power, under the Earl of Warwick and the Earl of Marche, (afterwards Edward IV) proceeded from London in search of the royal forces, the Lancastrians were quartered in Coventry. They shortly, however, quitted that city, and the battle of Northampton ensued, where, among the slain on the side of Henry we find Sir William Lucie, a person of note in Warwickshire. In 1470, the Earl of Warwick, then a partisan of the Lancastrians, possessed himself of Coventry; and the citizens refused admission to Edward IV. That king, however, met with a friendly reception in the town of Warwick. When Richard III. took arms to oppose the pretensions of the Earl of Richmond, the sheriff of this county levied men for his use. But it is probable that they were not engaged in the decisive action, as it appears, from an inquisition then taken, that the sheriff (Richard Boughton,) was slain two days before the battle of Bosworth; and it is supposed that he was encountered, and overpowered, by some of the Earl of Richmond's troops while marching to the aid of the king.

In the seventeenth century, when a deluded court and a fanatical parliament plunged the nation again into the miseries of civil contest, the inhabitants of Warwickshire evinced a greater unanimity of sentiment. Some cavaliers were found ready to adventure life and fortune in support of their king; but these were truly few in number. The influence of Lord Brooke, one of the earliest and most strenuous advocates of the popular faction, did much in kindling the zeal of the natives; and his local resources were of distinguished service to his party. The castle of Warwick, situated near the centre of the kingdom, and strong
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by nature and art, was a most convenient place of arms; and the possession of such a garrison gave confidence to the first hostile movements of the Parliament. The flame of opposition spread through every town; and no county exhibited a more decided inclination to take an active part in the sanguinary business of the season. In June and July, 1642, Lord Brooke arrayed the militia of Warwickshire, in attention to a commission received from the Parliament; and, in the month of October following, was fought the first great battle between the opposed parties, at Edgehill, on the south-east border of this county. On this eventful day Lord Brooke's own regiment, composed of prime Warwickshire men, fought in the right wing, a division that entirely broke the left of the king's army. In January, 1642-3, his lordship was appointed general and commander-in-chief (under the Earl of Essex,) of the associated counties of Warwick and Stafford. At different periods of this war the castle of Warwick sustained a siege, the town of Birmingham was fired by the troops under Prince Rupert, and many inferior skirmishes took place. It is well known that only a comparatively small part of the population of England was actively engaged in these degrading hostilities; but that Warwickshire was ready to furnish its full quota to the parliamentary faction will be evident, when we observe that Lord Brooke found no difficulty in adding to his hands, on one emergency, a hundred men from Warwick, two hundred from Coventry, and three hundred from others, "the most forward of the county, who came and offered their services."* During these scenes of violence some religious structures, and numerous mansions of the gentry, suffered much dilapidation; for fanatics, whether termed friends or foes, must ever be dangerous visitors. After that complete destruction of the hopes of the Royalists, which followed the battle of Naseby, Warwickshire, among other midland counties, remained under the quiet control of the Parliament, until the entire restoration of national good order.

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* Account of the family of Greville: p. 92.

The county of Warwick is situate near the centre of England, in a north-west direction from the metropolis. In form it approaches to an oval; and is bounded on the south-east by Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire. On the north-east it is separated from Leicestershire by the great Roman way termed Watling Street. Staffordshire unites with its limits on the north-west. On the west lies the county of Worcester; and on the south-west is part of Gloucestershire. The greatest length of the county, as stated by Murray, is fifty-one and a quarter miles; and the greatest breadth thirty-six miles. According to Cary's map the county contains 597,477 and a half acres, at the calculation of eighty chains, statute measure, to a mile. The city and county of Coventry form a district politically distinct from Warwickshire; yet, from locality, they are necessarily included in our notice of this county; they comprise in the whole, about 18,161 acres. On the division of England into shires, Warwickshire evidently took its name from the town of Warwick. In the Saxon annals the name is written *Weringscyre*.

When William the Conqueror caused the truly valuable record, termed Domesday, to be formed, this county contained ten hundreds; a circumstance of division which seems to prove the consequence and great population of the district at that period. These hundreds did not exist long, under the names mentioned in Domesday; but, though they fluctuated in title, the number for some time remained nearly the same. There are now four hundreds (subdivided, for convenience, into eighteen parts.) The city and county of Coventry are, however, usually considered in the character of a fifth hundred. Warwickshire thus constituted contains one city and thirteen market-towns.* The whole is in the province of Canterbury, and in the dioceses of Lichfield and Coventry, and of Worcester. Six members are returned to Parliament by this district; two for the shire, two for the city of Coventry, and two for the town of Warwick.

Warwick.

* To which may be added a part of a fourteenth town—Tamworth.

Warwickshire is described by early writers as naturally divided into two parts, the Feldon (or Champaign,) and the Woodland.—The Avon formed the line that separated these tracts, and the sylvan district was emphatically denominated *Arden*, which term is well known to have been common among the Celts in general for a forest however situated. The Arden of this county is perhaps justly asserted by Drayton to have been the largest of the British forests, as it extended from the banks of the Avon to the Trent on the north, and to the Severn on the west: on the east the tract so termed was bounded by an imaginary line drawn from High Cross to Burton. When England was divided into shires, the counties of Worcester and Stafford took to themselves respective portions of this wild, and bestowed on the forests so claimed the names by which they are still distinguished; the part remaining with Warwickshire alone retained the title by which the whole was originally designated. But this large division has been long cleared of those thick-matted woods which formerly encumbered, rather than ornamented, its soil. A colouring, however, of its pristine character remains; and an occasional air of wildness is found, to denote the complexion of the country when occupied by the Ceangi of the Cornavii, and their numerous herds. In general aspect Warwickshire presents a face of country agreeably diversified by such an alternation of hill and valley as is equally gratifying to the eye of the pictorial traveller, and beneficial to the more important views of the agriculturist. The former often meets, in the vicinity of its streams, on the sides of its gentle hills, and in the breaks of its frequent spots of woodland, scenes to soothe or elevate his imagination. The labours of the latter are never entirely interrupted by precipitous elevations, and seldom deteriorated by expanses so flat as to be unwholesome. The highest points of land are at Corley, in Hemlingford Hundred, and the neighbourhood of Packington. From this elevated ridge the water runs on one side into the Avon, and thence to the Bristol Channel; on the other it descends to the Blythe, Tame, Trent,

Trent, and Humber at Hull. A ridge on the south-east, including the Brailes and Edge-hills, is, also, much elevated, and commands a variety of pleasing prospects. The insulated situation of the county, and its freedom from any great inequalities of surface, render the climate mild, and vegetation early. It is observed by Mr. Murray, that "the most general winds are from the south-west, and are usually accompanied with rain; but, not unfrequently, the effects of an easterly variation are felt towards the middle of May; and it scarcely need be remarked that vegetation must in consequence suffer severely. Warwickshire, upon the whole, however, is not to be considered as subject to any particular excess of damp or frost."

The *Soil*, as is usual with the midland district, possesses great variety. Indeed, nearly every species is to be seen, except that incorporated with chalk and flint; and often many of these varieties occur within one field or enclosure. The greater part of the soil, however, is of a description highly amenable to the purposes of agriculture; and it may safely be asserted that few counties possess less bad, or sterile land, in proportion to that which responds readily and abundantly to the husbandman's toil. The labours of Mr. Murray, the surveyor appointed by the Board of Agriculture, assist us in making with accuracy the following observations.—The *Hundred of Knightlow* (a district chiefly in tillage,) consists principally of a red clay loam and sand, in some places upon freestone and limestone, and in others on a good sharp gravelly bottom; a strong clay loam on limestone rock; a light sandy land, in several places mixed with sharp gravel, well adapted to turnip husbandry; and a rich clay loam on limestone and marl. The portion of this hundred, which is in grass, has for its soil a clay of desirable strength. The *City of Coventry* is surrounded by a red and deep sandy loam, of great richness, chiefly in grass. The same character of soil pervades nearly the whole of the tract denominated the *County of Coventry*: but in some instances an admixture of clay is to be perceived, and a few

few parishes consist of what is emphatically termed *strong land*. *Kineton Hundred* is marked by a clay loam, of various strength, on limestone; and a cold clay, very strong but poor:—a tract of rich grass land, from four to five miles broad, begins at the Brails-hill, and extends beyond Gaydon and Knightcote. The soil of the *Barlichway Hundred*, in the neighbourhood of Warwick, and to the south and south-west of that vicinity, is frequently a strong clay loam on marl and limestone rock: the remainder of the hundred consists principally of a fine dry red clay loam, and a sandy loam, both easy of tillage, and of abundant produce. A great proportion of *Hemlingford Hundred* is in tillage, but the soil is perhaps less desirable than that of any other division of the county. A moorish white and yellow clay, on clay and marl; and a dry sandy loam, almost equally meagre and unkind, are too frequently found. Large spots, however, act as exceptions; among which it may be observed that the land round Birmingham is often of a dry and light red sandy description, evidently well suited to the turnip system of husbandry. Towards the north-east, also, is seen a strong clay loam on marl. This stretch of land (particularly the part that borders on Leicester-shire,) is in grass, and used in grazing.

So great a variety of soil is necessarily productive of different systems of agriculture. The Warwickshire farmers have been justly said "to be far from neat in ploughing their land: the strong clay land is ploughed in large crooked ridges, gathered very high, with a small ridge between them; and a great deal of light land is ploughed in a similar manner."* To this general censure, however, many exceptions occur; and these, as it may be expected, will usually be found in the largest farms. It is truly observed by Mr. Murray, that "the country from Stratford to Warwick appears the best cultivated part of the county." The land is generally ploughed from five to eight inches in depth; and, on the clays, is cast into ridges above thirty feet broad, with

* Murray's Agri. Surv. p. 66.

with a smaller ridge, of the width of ten or twelve feet, between. On the lighter soils the ridges vary from fifteen to thirty, and even in some instances to forty feet. On the strong lands four or five horses are used in ploughing, and these are yoked one before the other; but on lighter soils two-horse ploughs have been introduced, and on such lands they appear to be partially growing into credit and adoption. Our ancestors, with weak horses, and heavy, ill-constructed ploughs, found it necessary to use a numerous yoke; and the farmers of the present day, where they occupy the land of their forefathers in unmolested vegetative succession, will not readily be taught that when the breed of horses is improved, and the instrument of tillage is divested, by amended workmanship, of half its weight, a smaller number of horses must needs be sufficient. The horses of the plough-team perform the labour of the day at one yoking; and very few oxen are used for draught.

The drill husbandry obtains only among a few individuals, and does not appear likely to grow into greater practice. Wheat is the grain most frequently drilled; the crops more rarely submitted to this system are barley, beans, peas, and vetches. The horse-hoe has not yet been adopted by the agriculturists favourable to drill-husbandry; and we unwillingly observe that the whole process of weeding meets with too little attention from the generality of farmers. The crops usually cultivated are wheat, barley, oats, peas, beans, vetches, and turnips. The crops partially raised, but which are not admitted into the ordinary rotation of farms, are rye, potatoes, and flax.

From our notice of the soil prevailing in this county, it must be obvious that much of the land is well calculated for the cultivation of wheat; yet it is observed by the official surveyor, "that the culture of this valuable plant might be considerably increased, if a different system of husbandry were practised." After instancing several soils capable of such an improvement in rotation as would cause, with a security of permanent gain, a
more

more frequent recurrence of this golden crop, he observes, in support of his assertion, that "on the rich loams there is only a wheat season once in six or eight years, instead of three crops, which might be grown in the same period. On the poor sandy soils wheat is seldom attempted." The seed time necessarily varies with the soil; but wheat, unless after a summer fallow, is usually sown in the months of September and October. The red lammas is the kind usually preferred. *Barley* is principally cultivated "on the dry loams after turnips, the clay soils being more uncertain." The seed is put in the ground as early in April as is practicable; and a change from other counties is seldom procured. This, indeed, appears the less necessary, as the barley of Warwickshire is particularly weighty and good. The produce of this crop, on the soils best suited to its growth, is from five to six quarters per acre.—Various kinds of *Oats* are cultivated. The quantity usually sown, per acre, is five bushels; and the produce varies from three to eight quarters each acre.—The *Gray Pea* alone is raised by the farmer; and this crop is observed to thrive particularly on land that has lately undergone a course of lime.—*Beans* were formerly not cultivated in Warwickshire on a large scale; but they are now rising in esteem. The kinds sown are the common tick bean and the horse bean. Both winter and spring *Vetches* are grown to some extent. Two bushels per acre is the customary quantity of seed. The produce is usually eaten off by sheep, or cut green for the use of farming horses; though some farmers plough it in for manure; a practice that seems only to have its simplicity of operation to recommend it.—*Turnips*, the most important introduction that English agriculture has yet experienced, find a suitable soil in nearly every division of the county, and they are cultivated with some success. If turnips are sown after wheat, oats, or barley, the land is regularly aided by manure; but the crop too frequently receives only one hoeing; a neglect most detrimental to the farmer's best interest. The *Ruta Baga*, or Swedish Turnip, is not much grown; a circumstance

cumstance perhaps to be attributed to the natural mildness of the climate, and consequent early abundance of grass. Turnips are sown according to the broadcast system throughout Warwickshire, and are eaten off by sheep folded.

“ It is supposed that the extent of land in permanent *Meadow* and *Pasture Grass* in Warwickshire amounts to 235,000 acres; and the quantity in artificial grass to about 60,000 acres, making together annually in grass 295,000 acres. Out of this quantity it is supposed 80 to 85,000 acres are meadows, and mown for hay annually; and of the artificial grass about 10 to 15,000 acres are cut green for horses and other cattle, and made into hay: the remaining 195 to 205,000 are pastured with sheep and cattle.”^{*} The live stock thus employed by the grazing farmers is of various breeds; but the long-horned cow is the sort chiefly bred in the county. The Warwickshire sheep of the large polled kind have been judiciously crossed with the Leicester; and a breed has resulted that is certainly not inferior to the stock of principal request in any county of England.

The farms of Warwickshire are in general far from large; but the system of consolidation appears to be rapidly growing into favour with the great landholders. In the opinion of Mr. Wedge, of Packington, 150 acres are at present about the average size of farms throughout the county. Few leases are granted; but the rent of land, with the exception of such districts as border on great commercial towns, is assuredly moderate. Mr. Murray supposes that the average rent of the whole county would not amount to more than 29s. per annum.

According to an estimate formed about ten years back by Mr. Wedge, the waste land of this county, including roads, then amounted to 120,470 acres. The commons and common field he placed at 57,000 acres. Since the period of this calculation many acts of enclosure have been obtained, and only a small portion now lies uncultivated. The chief unenclosed tracts consist of
heaths

^{*} Murray, p. 128.

heaths and commons, of an indifferent quality, on the north and west.

The principal *Woodlands* of this county are still to be found in the neighbourhood of its former great forest, in the middle, western, and northern districts; but nearly every divison is interspersed with valuable and ornamental timber. Oak, matured and grand, conveying the story of former ages, yet likely to flourish in the days of succeeding generations, is attached to almost every residence of hereditary consequence. The estate of Mr. Leigh, of Stoneleigh, near Coventry, is situate in the most luxuriant part of Warwickshire, and is particularly affluent in oak timber of the largest and most valuable description. At Merevale; at Ragley, the seat of the Marquis of Hertford; and at Charlcote, the estate of the Rev. Mr. Lucie, are likewise woods thick with stately and venerable oak. Elm, in the most flourishing condition, is abundant; and in no part are to be seen finer trees of this species than in the grounds belonging to the gentleman last mentioned. Nor does the county entirely depend for its wealth in woodland recesses on the liberal providence of past ages; the recent plantations are numerous, and carefully attended.—There are also many *Coppices*, consisting of oak, ash, hazel, alders, birch, and beech. Concerning the management of these nothing peculiar occurs. They are cut in regular allotments, so as to admit of a fall in every year. As coals abound in this county, the wood is seldom consumed as fuel, but is used chiefly for hurdles, hoops, rails, &c.

Warwickshire is *watered* by numerous streams, which impart richness to large spreads of pasture, and add much to the pictorial charms of the county, though (with an exception of the Avon,) they are of a character too trivial to bestow important facilities on commercial interchange. Of these the principal are the Avon, the Tame, the Leam, the Rea, the Stour, the Alne, the Arrow, the Anker, the Blythe, the Swift, the Cole, and the Dove.

The River Avon (termed the Upper, or Warwickshire, Avon,) claims particular notice, from its affluence of waters, and from the interest attached to its picturesque and ornamented banks. This river derives its source from a spring in the village of Naseby, Northamptonshire, and enters the county of Warwick at Bensford Bridge, being joined at the village of Brownsover by the river Swift, a stream that rises in Leicestershire, and is memorable for having borne far abroad through its narrow channel the violated ashes of the great Reformer, John Wickliff.* Proceeding in a south-west direction, but with devious and dilatory windings, the Avon reaches the town of Warwick through valleys which conspicuously increase in beauty as it approaches that venerable place. Passing close to the base of Warwick Castle, whose lofty towers so finely decorate its course, our river expands in some places to the breadth of two hundred feet as it pursues its track through the grounds attached to this princely residence. It now, with a flow too gentle, and a course too devious, for the warm anticipations of the examiner, draws towards the neighbourhood which imparts classic immortality to its name. It passes Fulbroke; and, in the park formerly attached to a mansion here, Shakspeare is said to have committed his great youthful irregularity, and to have condescended to become one of those who, with unhallowed licence, "gored, in their own confines, the round haunches of poor dappled fools." It looks boldly on Charlecote, the former residence of Sir Thomas Lucie, condemned to everlasting fame as Justice Shallow; and then, after making a large sweep towards the north, washes the border of the town of Stratford.

On quitting this favoured town the Avon proceeds, with no deviation of striking interest, to Bidford, a spot not to be passed with

* After the bones of Wickliff had remained thirty-one years in quiet sepulture, they were removed by order of the Council of Siena, and were burned, and then thrown into the river Swift. See Beauties, &c. for Leicestershire, p. 468.

with indifference, as it is supposed to have afforded a frequent retreat for convivial relaxation to the great native of the county. The village of Cleve is not more than one mile distant from Bidford: and in the neighbourhood of this village the river, though broad, is only four feet in depth. It shortly after leaves the county. While making this progress through Warwickshire the Avon receives the aid of several minor streams, among which the Dove, the Leam, the Stour, and the Alne, are the more important. Its course is easy and gentle. Its borders, though sometimes flat and melancholy, are, as we have shewn, in many places highly picturesque. Mr. Ireland* mentions, as a curious habit of this river, the circumstance of it occasionally freezing first at bottom. He principally forms his opinion on the information conveyed by a miller in the neighbourhood of Rugby. By this person he was told that "the icy particles do not in every frost arise from the bottom of the river, but only in one particular kind of frost, which the miller denominates the "*Anchor Frost*." The aged informant of Mr. Ireland is now dead; but, from enquiries in the neighbourhood of his former residence, we found that the phenomenon is stated to occur only in seasons of extreme severity, and under the influence of particular winds. In the account of Oxfordshire, forming a part of this work, we have shewn that the River Thames possesses this curious habit; and we believe that among English rivers the habit is peculiar to the Thames. It is not contended that the Avon possesses the custom in any other place than the vicinity of Rugby; and there, perhaps, the appearance is merely occasioned by some particularity in the formation of the flood-gates. The Avon was made navigable for vessels of about forty tons burthen, from Stratford to its conflux with the Severn at Tewksbury, in 1637; but the numerous canals which have been formed have much diminished its traffic.

Concerning the course of the minor rivers, the rhymes of Dray-
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* In his Picturesque Views on the Avon, p. 68.

ton (himself a native of the far-spread Arden of this county,) may suffice. In the *Polyolbion* he tells

How Arden of her rills and riverets doth dispose;
By Alcester how *Ala* to *Arro* eas'ly flows;
And mildly being mixt, to Avon hold their way:
And likewise tow'r'd the North how lively-tripping *Rheca*,
T' attend the lustier *Tame*, is from her fountain sent;
So little *Cole* and *Blyth* go on with him to Trent.
His Tamworth at the last he in his way doth win;
There playing him awhile, till *Ancor* should come in.

The chief medicinal *Springs* are those of Leamington and Newnham-Regis. The former are found so efficacious in many chronic disorders, in diseases of the skin, and visceral obstructions, that the village in which they rise is rapidly augmenting in buildings of a costly and ornamental character. The latter is a weak chalybeate, and a bath formed from its waters was once of great renown for the cure of scorbutic complaints; but it is now resorted to only by a few.

Considerable sheets of water, or mimic-lakes, have been formed for ornament in the adjacency of various mansions; but the *Canals* of the county are the great objects of consideration while treating of artificial water. Warwickshire is conspicuous for commercial enterprise, and for the spirit with which manufactures are cultivated. It will necessarily be supposed that a people so industrious and intelligent have been active in profiting by the great medium of canal conveyance. No county, indeed, can boast of more numerous facilities of this description; and some diversions from original channels are yet projected, which a more propitious era may lead to perfection.

The Grand Junction Canal, which commences in the River Thames, near the extremity of the Tideway at Brentford Creek, and terminates in the Oxford Canal at Braunston, has for its chief object a communication between the metropolis and the

various

various canals of the midland districts, and is evidently of the highest importance to the water-traffic of this county.

The *Birmingham Old Canal* has its commencement in the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal, at Aldersley near Wolverhampton, and terminates in the Birmingham and Fazely Canal, near the town of Birmingham. By this channel coals are conveyed from the numerous mines near its banks, and the manufactured goods of Birmingham are forwarded to Liverpool and Manchester. Near Farmer's Bridge it connects with the Worcester and Birmingham; at Tipton-Green with the Dudley; and near Wolverhampton with the Wyrley and Essington Canal.

The *Birmingham and Fazely Canal* has for its great objects the conveyance of the Birmingham manufactures towards London or Hull, and the supply of grain and other articles to Birmingham and its vicinity. It commences in a detached part of the Coventry Canal, at Whittington Brook, and terminates in the Old Birmingham Canal at Farmer's Bridge, Birmingham.

The *Warwick and Birmingham Canal* commences in that termed the Warwick and Napton, in Budbrook parish, near Warwick; and ends in the Digbeth Cut of the Birmingham and Fazely, at Digbeth. It assists in forming part of the most direct water communication between Birmingham and London, and supplies the town of Warwick with coals.

The *Worcester and Birmingham Canal* is found of great utility, though it met with much opposition in various stages of its progress.* Its objects are the export of coals, and a more direct communication between Birmingham and the river Severn. It commences in the Severn river at Diglis, near Worcester;

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* Mr. John Smeaton was one of the engineers employed; and the fatigue and anxiety produced by the evils of opposing interests are supposed to have assisted in shortening his useful life.—For many particulars connected with Canals in general, we beg to refer the reader to the work of Mr. Phillips on Inland Navigation, and to the very judicious historical essay by Mr. Farey, under the head "Canal," in Dr. Rees's Cyclopædia.

cester ; and proceeds to the junction of the Old Birmingham, and the Birmingham and Fazely Canals, at Farmer's Bridge.

The *Coventry Canal* is of much importance in aiding the line of communication between London, Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, &c. Many coals are exported from the mines in the vicinity of its banks, and from these the city of Coventry receives its principal supplies. It commences in the Birmingham and Fazely Canal, at Fazely, and terminates in the Oxford Canal at Longford. A detached part, of five miles and a half in length, begins at the termination of the Birmingham and Fazely at Whittington Brook, and ends in the Trent and Mersey Canal at Fradley Heath. There is, also, a Cut, of about one mile in length, to the Griff collieries ; and another, of different branches, to the collieries near Sees-wood Pool, and Bedworth. The branch conducting from Longford to Coventry is four miles and three quarters in length. James Brindley was the original engineer to this concern.

The *Warwick and Napton Canal* commences in the Warwick and Birmingham, and terminates in the Oxford Canal, at Napton-on-the-Hill.

The *Stratford Canal* commences in the Worcester and Birmingham, at King's Norton ; and it is intended that it shall terminate in, or near, the river Avon at Stratford ; but the works are not yet completed farther than the vicinity of Wootton, though the summit-level from its commencement to Hockley-Heath was finished and opened in May, 1796.

Ashby-de-la-Zouch Canal proceeds through parts of the counties of Warwick, Leicester, and Derby. It commences in the Coventry Canal at Marston Bridge, near Nuneaton, and the traffic terminates by a railway of nearly three and a half miles in length, at Ticknal lime-works. " The first $30\frac{1}{2}$ miles of this canal," writes Mr. Farey, " are level, and form, with parts of the Coventry and Oxford Canals, a level of seventy-three miles in length ; being, without the branches, the longest

in the united kingdoms ; and rendered more singular by being on so high a level as to cross the grand ridge without a tunnel."

While so much liberality has been evinced in the extension and improvement of water-conveyance, the chief *Roads* of the county have been far from experiencing neglect. The materials principally used are limestone and gravel ; and with these the high turnpike-ways are kept in good repair. This is a circumstance of public accommodation peremptorily required by the manufacturing interest ; but, where the agriculturists are left to their own exertions, we return to such rough and homely channels as were tediously trodden by the unambitious tenantry of past centuries. The cross-country roads are, indeed, treated with too little attention in nearly every part of the county.

The *Minerals and Fossils* of Warwickshire are coal, limestone, freestone, ironstone, blue flagstone, marl, and blue clay. The best *Coal* in the county is that found at Bedworth. The *Seam* at this place is from three to four feet in thickness. The coal sells at the pit for 11s. 8d. and 12s. per ton. At Chilvers Coton, Nuneaton Common, Hunt's-Hall, Oldbury, and Griff-hollow, considerable quantities are also found. *Limestone* abounds in many parts, and " is sold in shells, at the kiln, from 2s. 6d. to 3s. per quarter, or 43s. to 45s. per waggon load."* *Freestone* Rock is found in most divisions where the soil is a light sand ; and considerable quarries of *Blue Flagstone* (used for paving and flooring,) are wrought in the vicinity of Bidford and Wilnecote. The west part of the county is prolific of *Marl* of a good quality ; and *Blue Clay*, which it was once fallaciously thought might be made to answer the purposes of soap, abounds in the eastern districts. A vein of ironstone was formerly wrought in the neighbourhood of Oldbury.

Manufactures of various descriptions are cultivated to a considerable extent. The manufactory of hardware goods at Birmingham has obtained for that town the appellation of " the

* Agri. Sur. p. 20.

Toyshop of Europe;" and is, assuredly, a just subject of national pride. The convulsed state of Europe, through recent periods, has unavoidably affected the trade of this active and persevering place; but the spirit of the inhabitants is too ardent to be permanently repressed: the manufactory of musquets for government is now carried on to so large an extent, that six thousand are sent weekly to London. Not less than 16,000 people, in the city of Coventry, and neighbouring towns and villages, are believed to be employed in the manufacture of ribbons. The manufacture of watches is likewise cultivated at Coventry with such eminent success, that, perhaps, this city now takes the lead in that trade, even when the metropolis is admitted to the scale of comparison. Many horn-combs of all descriptions are made at Kenilworth. At Warwick are manufactories of worsted for the hosiery trade; of calicoes, and other cotton goods, from yarn spun at Manchester and the neighbourhood; and a mill for the spinning of cotton yarn. At Alcester about six hundred persons are employed in the making of needles; and in other parts of Warwickshire there are considerable flax manufactures, and much linen yarn spun.

The state of the county while occupied by the Britons, and during the invasion and subsequent settlement of the Romans and their Saxon successors, we have already noticed. It remains to mention the relics of those eras, the tangible memorials of past days which assist the fancy in peopling each altered track with the faded images of our ancestry. Although Mr. Shaw, in his history of Staffordshire, conjectures that the chief-seat of the Arch-Druid of Britain was situated in the vicinity of Sutton-Coldfield, we find few vestiges that can be safely ascribed to the Britons. The Romans, warlike, successful, and vast in undertaking, worked for posterity; and their connexion with Warwickshire would be obvious in all its districts, if every other record had sunk amidst the wrecks of time. The *Roads*, which at once facilitated conquest and aided the progress of civilization, form the most interesting relics of this great people. The *Watling Street*,

Street, the most stupendous of their works in Britain, divides this county from Leicestershire on the north-east. From Weedon to the lordship of Lilborn, and the neighbourhood of the station Tripontium, it is only a private road, though distinctly marked and well known. It then forms the public way between Daventry and Lutterworth for a few miles; when it again becomes private, and so continues till it reaches High Cross. Here the turnpike-road from Lutterworth to Atherstone passes over it, for about two miles of its progress towards Hinkley; and returning to it again about two miles from Hinkley, continues along it to Atherstone. Beyond Atherstone it is in good repair; and, proceeding by Hints, Weeford, and Wall, (*Etoctum*,) shortly becomes the basis of the great Chester road, on its way for Ireland, the object of its destination. The *Foss-way* intersects the Watling Street at High Cross. Passing near Monk's Kirby and Stretton, it goes through Brinklow, Bretford on the river Avon, and Stretton-upon-Dunsmoor. Then crossing the river Leam, to the west of Marton, it leaves Chesterton, Light-horne, and Combroke to the east, and Stretton-on-Foss to the west, near which parish it enters Gloucestershire. This road (which is supposed to have been constructed in the third consulship of Adrian, nearly seventeen hundred years back,) is still firm through many parts of its progress, and likely to mock the assaults of time for centuries. A third Roman way connected with Warwickshire is usually termed the *Icknield Street*; but, according to some modern writers, of whom the chief is Mr. Reynolds, the author of *Remarks on the Itinerary of Antoninus*, &c. this term is improperly bestowed. Mr. Reynolds contends that *Ryknild* is the proper appellation;* and observes that "the

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street

* As the road which passes through Warwickshire originated, says Mr. Reynolds, among the Regni, it perhaps was anciently called *Regnild* from that people. The Icknield Street, properly so called, is supposed by some writers to commence in its main line at Yarmouth, and to pass through Suffolk and the counties of Cambridge, Hertford, Bedford, and Oxford, to Winchester, in Hampshire, and Southampton.

street is so termed in a deed of Hilton Abbey, Staffordshire, dated 1223; and, likewise, in an ancient deed of lands bounded by it near Birmingham." We cannot consider these deeds as any important authority. The positive track of the Roman roads is, however, yet so involved in obscurity, that an endless scene of critical discussion is open for the speculations of the antiquary. In the present page we wave an examination of the question, and proceed to notice the progress of the road through a part of this county. It enters on the south, and is clearly distinguishable in the neighbourhood of Bidford. Between Wixford and Alcester there are, as we believe, no traces remaining; but, to the north of the latter place, it again rises to notice, and is known by the name of the *Haden-way*. After passing Studley it enters a recess of Worcestershire, which may be figuratively said to be embayed by parts of this county; and returns in the vicinity of Birmingham. Touching the margin of Staffordshire, it proceeds to Sutton Park, where it is to be distinctly traced. At Wall, in Staffordshire, mentioned before as a Roman station, it meets the Watling Street. A minor road, termed the *Ridgeway*, likewise borders part of Warwickshire on the east; and several branches appear to have diverged from each of the great tracts.

The principal stations of the Romans in this county have already been noticed. The remains of various camps constructed by that people are found, in different stages of preservation. The chief of these are seen on the Foss-way, where places of entertainment were formed for the accommodation of troops in their marches; and on the banks of the river Avon, where Ostorius arranged a chain of minor fortifications to keep the natives in awe. Many tumuli are found in the neighbourhood of the roads and camps; and coins, and other vestiges of the Romans, have been discovered in nearly every district. These will meet with attention, when we more immediately treat concerning the places at which they occur.

There are few military remains of the *Saxons* and *Danes*; and the relics of Saxon architecture are far from numerous, and are
by

by no means conspicuous for the rude but commanding grandeur of effect sometimes produced by that people. The fragments, indeed, are so trivial and disjointed that they act only as faint memorials of Saxon eras, and cannot fairly be adduced as specimens of the architectural talent of their designers. The most striking remains are those of Polesworth Nunnery, which principally consist of a fine arch, and a gateway carved in several divisions. Round-headed doorcases occur in the churches of Badgeley, Kenilworth, Stretton on Dunsmoor, Ryton, Shutton-don, Honingham, Wolston, and Burton-Dassett. The remaining portions of Merevale-Abbey contain some interesting, though ruinous specimens, of the Saxon style; and there are, likewise, some fragments in the churches of Salford-Priors and Beaudesert.

The great land-holders mentioned in Domesday, as tenants in capite or serjanty, at the time of the Norman survey are :

King William.	Roger de Ivery.
Bishop of Chester.	Robert de Oilgi.
Bishop of Worcester.	Robert de Statford.
Bishop of Baieux.	Robert Dispenser.
Bishop of Constance.	Robert de Vesci.
Abbey of Coventry.	Ralph de Mortimer.
Abbey of Abingdon.	Ralph de Limesi.
Abbey of Bertone.	William, Filius Ausculfi.
Abbey of Malmesbury.	William, Filius Corbucion.
Abbey of Winchcombe.	William Buenvasleth.
Abbey of Evesham.	Geoffrey de Mandeville.
Earl Roger.	Geoffrey de Wirce.
Earl Hugh.	Gilbert de Gaunt.
Earl Aubery.	Gilbert, Filius Turoidi.
Countess Godiva.	Gerinus.
Earl of Mellent.	Urso de Abetot.
Turchil de Warwiek.	Stephen.
Hugh de Grentemaianil.	Osbern, Filius Ricardi.
Henry de Ferieres.	Harold, Filius Comititis.*

Hasculfas

* Son of Ralph, Earl of Hereford.

Harcakus Musard.	Richard the Forester.* and
Nicholaus Bakstarius.	other Thains and Servants
Nigel de Albani.	of the King.
Christina.	Adeliz, wife of Hugh.
Leveva et Eddid.	

The *State of Property* in this county, at the present period, is very unequal in regard to division. One estate (that of Stoneleigh,) comprises 25,000 acres; and there are many other proprietors possessing a large extent of land. The greater part of the county is freehold, but there are some copyholders on an extensive scale; and a considerable portion is held of the church, principally of the cathedrals of Worcester and Lichfield. Some great landholders have no residence in the county; but many will be found among the nobility and gentry occupying

The principal Seats in Warwickshire.

Allesley Park	- -	Rev. J. Neale.
Ansley Hall	- - -	John Ludford, Esq.
Anstey Hall	- - -	Henry Cadwallader Adams, Esq.
Arbury Hall	- - -	F. Parker Newdigate, Esq.
Aston Hall	- - -	Heneage Legge, Esq.
Atherstone	- - -	Abraham Bracebridge, Esq.
Baddesley Clinton Hall		Edward Ferrers, Esq.
Baginton Hall	- -	Mrs. Price.
Barford	- - -	Charles Mills, Esq. M. P.
Berkswell Hall (now rebuilding)	- - -	John Wilmot, Esq.
Bilton House	- -	Hon. John Simpson, (not resident.)
Birdingbury Hall	-	Sir Theophilus Biddulph, Bart.
Blythe Hall	- - -	Mrs. Dugdale.
Brownsover	- - -	Sir Egerton Leigh, Bart.

Castle

* Richard held his lands of the gift of the King by the service of keeping the Forest of Cannock, Staffordshire.

Castle Bromwich Hall	A. Blair, Esq.
Charlecote - - -	Rev. Mr. Lucie.
Charter House - -	Edward Inge, Esq.
Combe Abbey - - -	Earl of Craven.
Compton Mordak - -	Lord Willoughby de Broke.
Compton Winyate -	Earl of Northampton.
Coton House - - -	Abraham Grimes, Esq.
Coughton - - - -	Sir John Throckmorton, Bart.
Edgbaston Hall - -	Dr. Withering.
Farnborough - - -	William Holbech, Esq.
Four Oaks Hall - -	Sir Edmund Cradock Hartop, Bart.
Grove Park - - -	Lord Dormer.
Guy's Cliff - - -	Bertie Greathead, Esq.
Hans Hall - - -	Charles Bowyer Adderley, Esq.
Hewell Grange - -	Earl of Plymouth.
Honington Hall - -	Gore Townshend, Esq.
Ickneild House - -	James Woolley, Esq.
Ilmington Hall - -	— Ladbroke, Esq.
Leamington Hastang	Rev. Sir Charles Wheeler, Bart.
Lower Easington Hall	Evelyn John Shirley, Esq.
Malvern Hall - - -	Henry Greswold Lewis, Esq.
Maxstoke Castle - -	Mrs. Dilke.
Merevale Hall - -	Dugdale Stratford Dugdale, Esq.
Meriden Hall - - -	Wriothesley Digby, Esq.
Middleton Hall - -	Lord Middleton.
Moxhall - - - -	Andrew Hacket, Esq.
Newbold Hall - - -	Lady Skipwith.
Newbold Pacey Hall	William Little, Esq.
Newnham Padox - -	Earl of Denbigh.
Offchurch Bury - -	John Wightwick Knightley, Esq.
Packington Hall - -	Earl of Aylesford.
Pooley Hall - - -	Hon. Colonel Finch.
Priory (Warwick) - -	W. Welby, Esq.
Radway - - - -	F. Miller, Esq.
Bagley Hall - - -	Marquis of Hertford.

Shuckburgh

Shuckburgh Hall - -	Sir Francis Shuckburgh, Bart.
Springfield - - -	Joseph Boulton, Esq.
Stivichall - - - -	Francis Gregory, Esq.
Stoneleigh Abbey -	James Henry Leigh, Esq.
Tamworth Castle - -	Marquis Townshend (not resident.)
Umberslade Hall - -	Lady Archer.
Upton - - - - -	Earl of Westmorland.
Walton Hall - - -	Sir Charles Mordaunt, Bart. M. P.
Warwick Castle - -	Earl of Warwick.
Wellesbourne House -	Bernard Dewes, Esq.
Whitley Hall - - -	Lord Hood.
Wolston House - -	Mrs. Scott.
Wootton Wawen Hall	Sir E. Smythe, Bart.
Wormleighton House	Lord Spencer.
Wroxall House - -	— Wren, Esq. (not resident.)

This county contains many fine instances of castellated and ancient domestic architecture; and mansions of more recent erection are frequent, and in a highly creditable taste. Few religious edifices will be found conspicuous either for magnitude or beauty, with the exception of those of Coventry; St. Mary's, Warwick, with its attached chapel; and the church of Stratford. Not many *Crosses* now remain, and those few are generally plain in construction, and mutilated by time.

According to the abstract of answers, &c. to the Population Act for 1811, printed by order of the House of Commons, the number of entire parishes is two hundred, and of parts of parishes nine. The following particulars respecting *the Poor* are extracted from the reports laid before Parliament, and printed in 1804, for the use of the members of the House of Commons. It is there stated:

“ That returns were received from two hundred and fifty-four parishes, or *places*, in the county of WARWICK, in the year 1803: in 1785 the returns were from two hundred and forty-six; and from two hundred and thirty-nine in 1776. Forty-two parishes,

fishes, or places, maintain all, or part of, their poor in work-houses. The number of persons so maintained, during the year ending Easter 1803, was one thousand nine hundred eighty one; and the expence incurred therein amounted to 19,822l. 11s. 2½d. being at the rate of 10l. 0s. 1½d. for each person maintained in that manner. By the returns of 1776, there were then twenty-nine workhouses, capable of accommodating one thousand eight hundred nineteen persons. The number of persons relieved out of workhouses was twenty-six thousand five hundred and eighty-four; besides three thousand six hundred and five, who were not parishioners. The expence incurred in the relief of the poor not in workhouses, amounted to 97,530l. 17s. 10½d. A large proportion of those who were not parishioners appear to have been vagrants, and therefore it is probable, that the relief given to this class of poor could not exceed two shillings each, amounting to 360l. 10s. This sum being deducted from the above 97,530l. 17s. 10½d. leaves 97,170l. 7s. 10½d. being at the rate of 3l. 14s. 7½d. for each person relieved out of any workhouse. The number of persons relieved in and out of workhouses, was thirty thousand two hundred, besides those who were not parishioners. Excluding the expence supposed to be incurred in the relief of this class of poor, all other expences relative to the maintenance of the poor, amounted to 1221 592l. 0s. 1½d. being at the rate of 4l. 1s. 2½d. for each parishioner relieved. The resident population of the county of Warwick, in the year 1801, appears, from the Population abstract, to have been two hundred and eight thousand one hundred and ninety; so that the number of the parishioners relieved from the poor's rate appears to be fifteen in a hundred of the resident population. The number of persons belonging to Friendly Societies appears to be eight in a hundred of the resident population. The amount of the total money raised by rates appears to average at 14s. 10½d. per head on the population. The amount of the whole expenditure on account of the poor appears to average at 11s. 10d. per head on the population. The expenditure in suits of law, removal of paupers, and

expences of overseers and other officers, according to the present abstract, amounts to 5,591l. 1s. The amount of such expenditure, according to the returns of 1785, was then 2,880l. 2s. 3d. The expenditure in purchasing materials for employing the poor, according to the present abstract, amounts to 2,010l. 9s. 11d. The amount of such expenditure, according to the returns of 1785, was then 401l. 14s. 8d. The poor of three parishes or places in this county are farmed, or maintained under contract. The poor of four parishes or places are maintained and employed under the regulations of special acts of Parliament. One hundred and eighty Friendly Societies have been enrolled at the Quarter Sessions of this county, pursuant to the acts of 33 and 35 George III.*

The comparative population of the county at different periods, commencing with the eighteenth century, is as follows :

1700	- - - -	96,600
1750	- - - -	140,000
1801	- - - -	215,100
1811	- - - -	236,400

In the estimate for the latter periods a thirtieth part is added to the resident population, as the presumed number absent on service in the army and navy. The annual proportions, in regard to baptism, burial, and marriage, are thus stated in the Population Abstract for 1811, from which publication the preceding particulars are derived :

One baptism to	-	35 persons.
One burial to	-	42 persons.
One marriage to	-	116 persons.

The actual population of the county, and its distribution in the different divisions, will be found in the annexed Table.

A TABLE OF THE POPULATION, &c. OF WARWICKSHIRE,

As published by Authority of Parliament in 1811.

WARWICKSHIRE.

HUNDREDS, &c.	HOUSES.				OCCUPATIONS.			PERSONS.		
	Inhabited.	By how many families occupied.	Building.	Uninhabited.	Families chiefly employed in agriculture.	Families chiefly employed in Trade, Manufactures, or Hand-craft.	All other Families not comprised in the two preceding classes.	Males.	Females.	Total of Persons.
Hundred of										
BARLEIGHWAY	4,233	4,527	26	119	2,603	1,187	737	10,443	10,961	21,404
HEMLINGFORD	7,232	7,932	29	145	3,951	3,325	636	17,717	19,298	37,016
KINETON	4,066	4,386	23	99	3,077	890	419	9,555	9,904	19,459
KNOTLOW	6,841	7,262	65	153	4,379	2,254	629	16,532	17,277	33,809
Town of BIRMINGHAM	16,653	18,165	140	278	589	17,294	282	40,518	45,235	85,753
City of COVENTRY	3,448	4,096	12	50	123	3,207	766	8,197	9,726	17,923
County of the same	1,196	1,263	2	44	290	851	192	2,554	3,310	5,864
Borough of WARWICK	1,251	1,435	11	21	119	767	549	3,012	3,485	6,497
Local Militia. *								1,011		1,011
Totals.	44,940	49,066	308	909	15,131	29,775	4,160	109,539	119,196	228,735

* The third regiment of Warwickshire Local Militia was assembled on the 80th of May, 1811, for fourteen days exercise, to the number of 1,011 (Officers included) This regiment was furnished from the divisions of Alcester, Henley, and Snitterfield, in the Hundred of Jarlichway, and from the whole of the Hundred of Kineton.

KNIGHTLOW HUNDRED

extends from the neighbourhood of Warwick, nearly the centre of the county, to the border of Northamptonshire. On the north-west it is separated from the county of Leicester by a part of the Roman road termed the Watling Street. The Foss-way runs from the south-west, and intersects the Watling Street in the immediate neighbourhood of High Cross, where several antiquaries of leading reputation have agreed to place the Roman station *Benones*, or *Benones*. The river Avon also passes through this Hundred, on the banks of which, as has been observed, a Roman station of camps was constructed by Ostorius. The whole Hundred is consequently, affluent in vestiges of the power and presence of the Roman legions.

"There is," says Dr. Thomas, "a certain rent due unto the Lord of this Hundred, called wroth money, or warth money, or ward penny; probably the same with ward penny. This rent must be paid every Martinmas day, in the morning, at Knightlow Cross, before the sun riseth; the party paying it must go thither about the Cross, and say *The Wrath Money*; and then lay it in the hole of the said Cross before good witness; for if it be not duly performed the forfeiture is thirty shillings and a white bull." The places subject to this payment are thirty-five in number, and the money is regularly deposited, at the present period, with all due formalities. The amount of the whole is nine shillings and one halfpenny; and the largest portion contributed by one parish is two shillings and three-pence, by Long Itchington.

Knightlow Hundred is formed into the four divisions* of Kenilworth, Kirby, Rugby, and Southam.

KENILWORTH

* It was ordained, in the reign of Henry VIII. that when a hundred was inconveniently large it should be subject to *Divisions*. These were sometimes termed *limits*, or *circuits*.—Pref. to Pop. Abstr. 1811.

KENILWORTH DIVISION

comprises the following Parishes and Hamlets : *Ashow ; Baginton ; Bubbenthall ; Cubbington ; Harbury ; Kenilworth ; Leamington Priors ; Leek-Wootton ; Lillington ; Milverton*, with Edmonscot ; *Offchurch ; Radford-Semele ; Stoneleigh ; Tachbrook-Mallory* (Hamlet in Parish of Bishop's Tachbrook ;) *Ufton ; Whitmash*.

The town of KENILWORTH is situate five miles to the south-west of the city of Coventry, and is at nearly the same distance, on the north east, from the town of Warwick. Sir William Dugdale observes, that, previous to the conquest, Kenilworth was a member of the neighbouring parish of Stoneleigh, being ancient demesne of the crown, " and had, within the precincts thereof, a castle, situate upon the bank of Avon, in the woods opposite to Stoneley Abby. Which castle stood upon a place called *Holme* (Holme) *Hill* ; but was demolished in those turbulent times of warr betwixt King Edmund and Canutus the Dane."* At the time of the Norman Survey, Kenilworth was divided into two parts, one of which was styled *Optone*, and was held of the king by Albertus Clericus, " in pure Almcs." The other portion was possessed by Richard the Forester. In the reign of Henry I. the manor was bestowed by the King on Geoffrey de Clinton, who founded here a potent castle and a monastery. But, though a fortified residence and a religious foundation were usually, in the early ages, the harbingers of wealth and consequence to a neighbouring town, Kenilworth does not appear to have ever attained much distinction for greatness of population or traffic. Henry III. bestowed the privileges of a weekly market on the Tuesday, and an annual fair to last three days ; but it is likely

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that

* Antiquities of Warwickshire, p. 236. The castle here mentioned is evidently that noticed by Camden, as formerly standing at Stoneleigh, and concerning which it is said, in a Note to Gibson's edition of the Britannia, " that there is no word relating to such a building in Dugdale's Warwickshire."

that this market sank into disuse, as, in the 18th of Queen Elizabeth, Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, obtained the grant of a weekly market to be held on Wednesday, and a yearly fair on Midsummer Day. The town now chiefly consists of an irregular street, nearly a mile in length, and has a manufacture of horn-combs on a considerable scale.

According to the returns made to Parliament in 1811, the number of inhabited houses is 463, and of uninhabited houses, 8. The population is stated, in the same returns, at 2,279.

The Castle which, when firm through all its battlements and courts, and peopled with the baronial pride of the land, formed so fine an ornament to this town, still imparts melancholy grandeur to the neighbourhood by the unusual magnificence of its ruins. These remains, have indeed, powerful claims on the feelings of the examiner. They present one of the most splendid and picturesque wrecks of castellated strength to be found in any English county, and are united with various interesting passages of history.—Geoffrey de Clinton, the founder of this structure, is believed to have been a man of mean origin, but his talents and acquirements were so conspicuous, that he was made Lord Chamberlain and Treasurer to King Henry I. and, afterwards, was appointed Chief Justice of England. The castle, however, shortly passed from his posterity. In the reign of Henry II. it was possessed by the King, who placed here a garrison when his eldest son rebelled against him. The account of the provisions taken up for the use of this garrison is curious, as shewing the great value of money at the period. The following are the articles, and the sums paid for them : one hundred quarters of Bread Corn, 8l. 8s. 2d (little more than 2d. per bushel.) Twenty quarters of Barley, 33s. 4d. One hundred Hogs, 7l. 10s. Forty Cows, salted, 4l. One hundred and twenty Cheese, 40s. Twenty-five quarters of salt, 30s.—It is evident that the large fortified dwellings of the Barons, in these turbulent times, not only afforded a retreat to the more defenceless neighbours, but were probably made, on that account, a source of profit to their

owners ; for we find that the sheriff, in accounting for the emoluments derived from the ward of this castle, mentions " certain money that he received, in the nature of rent, from such as had their abode therein." In the reigns of King John and Henry III. large sums were expended on such buildings as assisted in rendering the fortress more defensible. The latter King, in the 38th year of his reign, granted the castle to Simon Montfort, Earl of Leicester, and Elinor his wife, but only for their respective lives. When this Earl took arms against his Sovereign, he appointed Sir John Giffard Governor of the castle thus recently bestowed as a pledge of amity ; and it was constituted, for some time, the great place of resort for the insurgent nobles. After the discomfiture and death of the Earl of Leicester, at Evesham, Simon Montfort, his son, continued to shelter himself in this fortress, where he was joined by those friends of the baronial faction that were able to effect an escape from the field of battle. Thus aided, he exercised his power with the ferocity usual in these barbarous ages. He is said to have sent abroad his bailiffs and officers with an affectation of sovereign authority ; and bands of soldiery frequently issued from the castle, on predatory excursions, during which they spread the miseries of fire and sword with an unsparing hand.

These scenes of violence were interrupted by the approach of the King, who drew near, in much military pomp, at the head of an army of which the posse comitatus of Warwickshire formed a part. Simon Montfort, so arrogant while unopposed, now proved his cowardice to be equal to his cruelty, and secretly withdrew to France, naming Henry de Hastings Governor of the castle. Conscious of the great strength of the place, and willing to prevent effusion of blood, the King sent a message of fair promise to the Governor, demanding a surrender ; but those within the walls not only rejected this clement overture, but basely insulted and maimed the messenger. The siege now commenced, and the garrison defended themselves with vigour. They were well provided with military engines, among which were

some that cast stones* to a considerable distance ; and they occasionally ventured on desperate and destructive sallies.

The royal forces were equally active ; but the strength of the fortifications mocked their most resolute assaults. The King now had recourse to a commendable stroke of policy. An act had been passed, in a Parliament lately held at Winchester, disinheriting all those in open rebellion ; and Henry at this juncture, caused a convention of the chief persons favourable to his interest to assemble at Kenilworth ; by which twelve Nobles and Prelates were elected, with power to make such a farther determination concerning the confiscated property, as immediate circumstances might render expedient. By these Lords it was settled that all the disinherited persons (except the wife and children of the Earl of Leicester, and a few others) should have the privilege of redeeming their estates by a pecuniary fine, apportioned to the degree of offence ; which fine should not exceed five years' value nor be less than two. This is the well-known decree, termed the *Dictum de Kenilworth*. The persons elected met at Coventry, but the resolution was published by proclamation in the King's camp. The besieged, however, treated this overture with scorn ; and Henry, quite convinced that no blandishments could afterwards avail, prepared to storm the castle. But famine and sickness, the inglorious, but most profitable, auxiliaries of a besieging army, so badly provided with means of assault as were the military of these ages, spread their horrible influence over the garrison, and arrested the progress of the sword. Although assured that the besieged were reduced to extremity, the King granted lenient terms, and took possession of the castle, after having lain before it for six months. He shortly bestowed the fortress so tediously acquired, on Edmund his youngest son, whom he created Earl of Leicester and Lancaster.

In the seventh year of King Edward I. a costly and gallant tournament was held at Kenilworth. The knights were one hundred

* Several large stones, supposed to be a part of those hurled during this siege, are yet shown in the vicinity of the ruins.

dred in number, and many were foreigners of distinction who entered England for the purpose of displaying their chivalry on this occasion. Roger Mortimer, Earl of March, was the promoter of the festival, and was the principal challenger of the Tilt-Yard. The Ladies were, likewise, one hundred in number; and, as an instance of the splendour with which they were attired, it is recorded that they wore *silken mantles*. The exercises began on the eve of Saint Matthew, and continued till the day after the feast of St. Michael. The Dances were not less gallantly attended than the lists; and to avoid all painful distinctions that might arise from an attention to precedence, the whole party banquetted at a *Round Table*.

On the attainder of Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, son of Earl Edmund, the castle returned to the crown; and was by Edward II. intended as a place of retirement, when he saw danger augmenting on every side. But this ill-fated King was doomed to be brought hither as a prisoner. Henry, Earl of Lancaster, conveyed him to this place; and here he received intelligence of his formal deposition by the Parliament held at Westminster. Shortly after his mournful reply to this information, he was hurried to Berkley castle, the theatre of his last wretched hours.

In the reign of Edward III. John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, obtained possession of Kenilworth, by his marriage with Blanch, daughter of Henry Earl of Lincoln, and Duke of Lancaster. The great aim of those who had hitherto conducted to the buildings of this strong castle, was security: to elegance of domestic accommodation they were strangers. The reign of the third Edward produced a striking improvement in manners; and convenience and splendour of architectural arrangement were now first cultivated in England. By John of Gaunt large additions were made; and a great portion of the present ruins consist of the buildings raised by his munificence. In the person of King Henry IV. son to this Duke, the castle again became the property of the crown; and so continued till Queen Elizabeth conferred it on Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester. This Earl ex-

pended great sums in adorning and enlarging the structure ; and here he had the honour of entertaining Queen Elizabeth, in a manner so magnificent, that a notice of the festivities has been justly said to form an almost necessary page of the national annals. Her Majesty arrived on the 9th of July, 1575, and the splendid revelry of the season has met with a curious and amusing chronicle in *Lancham*, an attendant on the court.* From this writer we learn that the Queen, after dining at Long Itchington, and hunting by the way, " was met in the park, about a slight shoot from the Brayz and first gate of the castl," by a person representing " one of the ten sibills, cumly clad in a pall of white sylk, who pronounced a proper poezie in English rime and meeter." This her " Majestie benignly accepted, and passed foorth untoo the next gate of the Brayz, which, for the length, largenes, and use, they call now the Tylt-Yard ; whear a porter, tall of person, and wrapt also in sylke, with a club and keiz of quantitee according, had a rough speech full of passions, in meeter aptly made to the purpose." When the porter had concluded his harangue, six trumpeters, " clad in long garments of sylk, who stood uppon the wall of the gate, sounded a tune of welcum." This strain continued while " her Highness, all along this Tylt-Yard, rode unto the inner gate, where a person representing the Lady of the Lake (famous in King Arthurz Book) with too Nymphes waiting uppon her, arrayed all in sylks, attended her highness comming." From the midst of the pool, where was a moveable island, " bright blazing with torches," the Lady of the Lake floated to land, and greeted her Majesty with " a well-penned meeter," expressive of " the auncientee of the castl," and the hereditary dignity of the Earls of Leicester.

A burst of music closed this part of the ceremony. Over a
dry

* His work is intituled " A Letter, whearin Part of the Entertainment untoo the Queens Majesty, at Killingwoorth Castl, in Warwick Sheer, in this Soomerz Progreast, 1575, is signified. From a Freend Officer, attendant in the Court, unto his Freend, a Citizen and Merchant of London," &c.

dry valley leading to the castle gates "waz thear framed a fayr bridge; and upon the first payr of posts were set too cumly, square, wyre, cages," containing "live bitters, curluz, shoover-larz, hearsheawz, Godwitz, and such like deinty byrds. On the second payr were two great sylver'd bollz, featly apted to the purpoze, filde with Applz, Pearz, Oranges, Pougarnets, Lemmans," &c. The third pair of posts, "in too such sylver'd Bollz, had (all in earz green and gold) Wheat, Barly, Gotz," &c. The fourth post, "on the leaft hand, had Grapes in clusters, whyte and red; and the match post against it had a payre of great, whyte, sylver lyvery Pots, for Wyne." The fifth pair had each "a fair large trey, streawd with fresh Grass," containing various specimens of sea-fish;—a costly presentation, at that period, for a host in an inland situation. The sixth pair of posts sustained a more elevated burthen, and ascended from tokens of good cheer to the dignity of armorial bearings. On them "wear set two ragged stavex of sylver, as my Lord givez them in armz, beautifully glittering of Armour thereupon depending." On the seventh posts, the last and nearest to the castle, were placed various instruments, symbolical "of the Gifts of Phœbus;" tropes of the arts which should be raised on the pomp of chivalric bearings, and which were thus justly hinted to form the last result of dignified effort.

Over the castle gate, on a "Table beautifully garnisht above with her Highness Arms," was inscribed a Latin poem, descriptive of the various tributes paid to her arrival by the Gods and Goddesses. This was read to her by a poet, "in a long ceruleous Garment, with a Bay Garland on his head, and a skro in his hand. So passing into the inner court, her Majesty (*that never rides but alone*), thear set down from her palfrey, was conveyed up to chamber, when after did follo a great peal of Gunz, and lightning by Fyrwork."

The festivities lasted seventeen days, and comprised nearly every pastime which the resources of the age could produce. The hart was hunted in the park; the dance was proclaimed in

the gallery ; and the tables were loaded from morn to midnight with sumptuous cheer.* The park was peopled with mimic gods and goddesses, to surprise the regal visitant with complimentary dialogues, and poetical representations. More simple amusements were also studiously introduced ; the men of Coventry performed their Hocktide play ;† the rural neighbours were assembled to run at the Quintin ; and a marriage, in strict consistency of country ceremonials, was celebrated under the observance of the Queen. Every hour had its peculiar sport. A famous Italian tumbler displayed feats of agility ; Morris-dancers went through their rude evolutions, by way of interlude ; and thirteen bears were baited for the gratification of the courtiers. During the Queen's stay five gentlemen were honoured with knighthood, and " nyne persons were cured of the peynfull and daungerous deseaz called the King's Evill."

Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, died without acknowledged legitimate issue, and bequeathed Kenilworth to his brother, Ambrose Earl of Warwick, for life ; but he willed that the inheritance should descend to Sir Robert Dudley, his son, a person whose singular fortunes will meet with notice in our mention of the adjoining lordship of Stoneleigh. Sir Robert Dudley came into possession shortly after the decease of his father ; but he quitted the kingdom, under the King's licence to travel for three years, and not returning, his estates were seized for the use of the crown. At this period a survey of Kenilworth was taken by the King's officers, from which we extract a few particulars calculated

* As a proof of the hospitable spirit of the Earl, Laneham observes, that " the Clok Bell sang not a Note all the while her Highness was thear : the Clok stood also still withall ; the handz of both the tablz stood firm and fast, allweys pointing at two a Clok," *the Hour of Banquet* !

† Founded on the Massacre of the Danes, in 1002. The actors were led to the spot of performance by Captain Cox, a person of so much humorous notoriety in his day that Ben Jonson names one of his masques, printed in 1540. " A Masque of Owls at Kenelworth, presented by the Ghost of Captain Cox, mounted on his Hobby Horse."

culated to convey ideas of the building and dependencies, when perfected by the labour of many ages :—" The circuit within the walls, containeth 7 acres, upon which the walks are so spacious and fair that two or three persons together may walk upon most places thereof. The castle, with the 4 gatehouses, are all built of free-stone, hewen and cut; the walls in many places of xv and x^o foot thickness, some more, some less, the least 4 foot in thickness square. There runneth through the grounds, by the walls of the castle, a fair pool, containing cxi acres, which at pleasure is to be let round about the castle. The circuit of the castle, mannours, parks and chase, lying round together, contain at least xix or xx miles, in a pleasant cuntry; the like, both for strength, state and pleasure, not being within the realm of England." Prince Henry, to whom the estate was resigned by the King, avowed his readiness to pay to Sir Robert Dudley the sum of 14,500*l.* for his title to the castle and domains, notwithstanding the legal incapacity to which he had rendered himself subject; but, owing to the death of the prince, not more than 3000*l.* were actually forwarded; and no part ever reached the fugitive Sir Robert. The estate was possessed by the King at the commencement of the last civil war, and it shared the disastrous fortunes of its regal owner. The castle of Kenilworth may figuratively be said to have died an inglorious death. A mighty building, like a mighty chieftain, seems to fall with consonant magnificence when it sinks beneath the pressure of conflict, amid the general havoc of a wide field of chivalry; but this castle crumbled into ruins under the petty assaults of sordid hands,—bannerless, and without one contending hero to sigh over its destruction. Cromwell granted the whole manor to certain officers of his army, who demolished the splendid fabric in order to make a market of its materials. The turrets once dismantled, the relics were open to every spoliator. But the hand of depredation is now stopped, and the fragments, if left to the slow inroads of time, are likely to remain the memorials of
baronial

baronial grandeur, for the melancholy gratification of many a succeeding age.

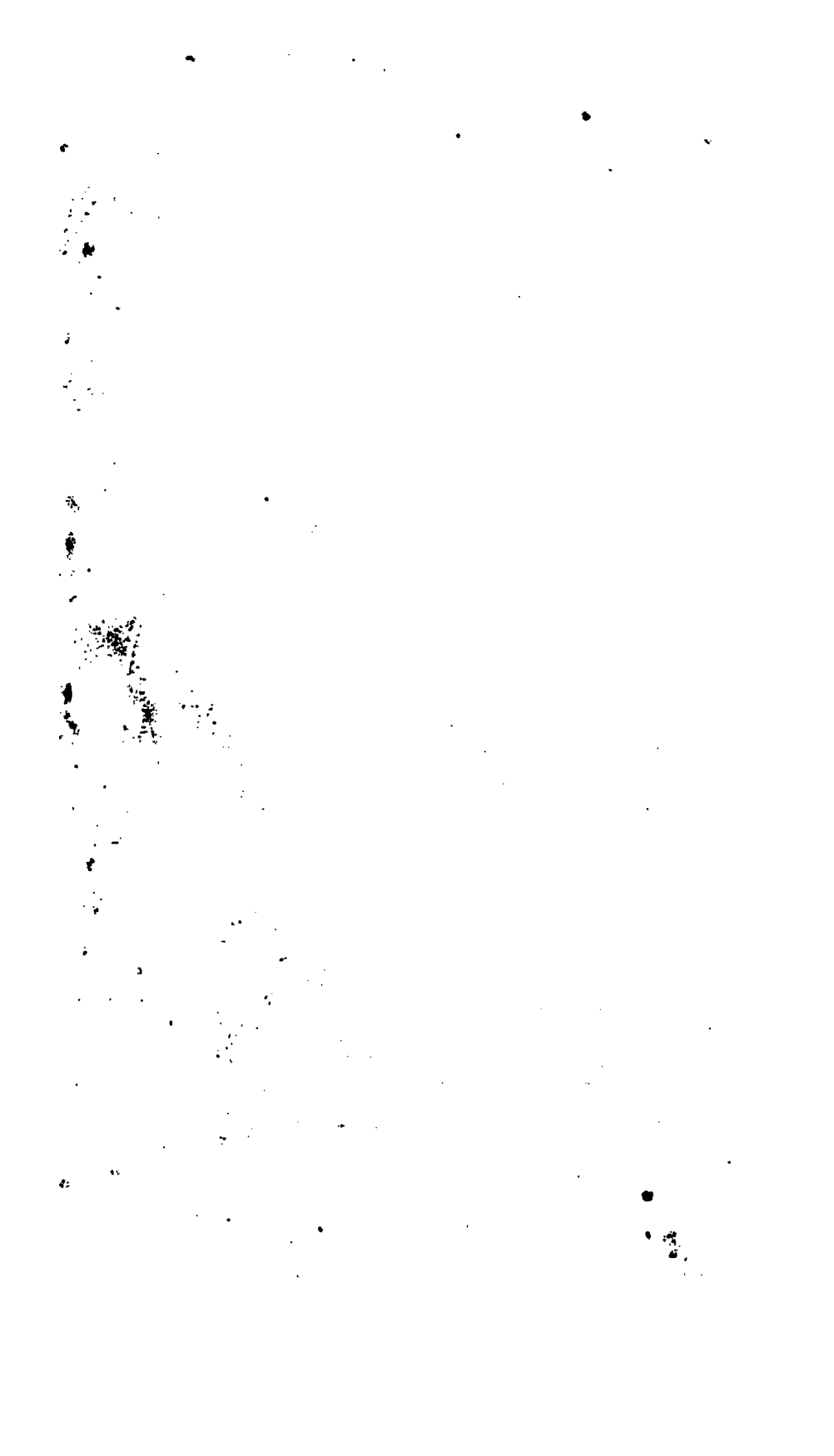
These ruins are very extensive, and present various combinations of the most romantic and picturesque description. They are in many parts screened and defended from the rain and winds by nestling shrubs and clinging ivy, which impart a lovely mellowness to the general display. Of the original fortress it is believed that only one portion remains. This comprises three sides of a square tower, popularly termed *Cæsar's tower*, an appellation often bestowed on buildings of a similar construction. The walls of this structure are in some places sixteen feet thick. The additions made by John Duke of Lancaster were large and massive. Considerable parts still remain, in different stages of decay, and they are yet distinguished by the term of *Lancaster-buildings*. That division of the pile that owes its foundation to the Earl of Leicester was of a magnificent character, and is likewise known by the name of its noble designer. In this part of the castle-ruins are to be seen the relics of the great hall of entertainment, a fine baronial room, 86 feet in length and 45 feet in width. The Leicester buildings were composed of a brown friable stone, not well calculated to stand the weather; and this part of the pile, though the last erected, is perhaps the most ancient in appearance. The great Gate-House raised by the Earl is in better preservation. The entrance was formerly through an arched way, now walled in; and the building is at present occupied by a farmer. In one apartment is a large and curious chimney-piece of alabaster, ornamented with the armorial bearings, crest, and motto of the Leicester family. This chimney piece, together with the oaken wainscoting of the room in which it is placed, was removed to its present situation, from one of the principal apartments of the Leicester buildings. The fine lake, which formerly ornamented three sides of the castle, and was the scene of much pageantry during Queen Elizabeth's visit, is now nearly dried up, and has long ceased to be an attractive object.

The MONASTERY before noticed as the foundation of Geoffrey de



and the Castle from a drawing by the late E. D. Popham.

KENILWORTH CASTLE,
Warwickshire.



de Clinton, in the reign of Henry I. was for canons regular of the order of St. Augustine, and stood to the east of the castle. This religious house was well endowed, and was valued at the Dissolution at $\text{£}33\text{l. } 15\text{s. } 4\text{d.}$ clear. The remains are now few, and consist chiefly of some fragments of wall, and the mutilated gate of entrance. On digging in the vicinity of the ruins, about the year 1795, some considerable traces of the foundation, including part of an aisle, or cloister, were discovered.

The village of STONELEIGH is three miles from Kenilworth, on the east. In this place was an abbey of Cistercian Monks, which religious foundation was moved hither from Radmore, Staffordshire, in 1154, the first year of Henry II. At this time there were in the manor, according to Dugdale, "sixty-eight villains, four bordars,* and two priests; all which held xxx carucates of land. As also four bondmen, or servants, whereof each held one mess, and one quartrone of land, by the services of making the gallows, and hanging of theeves: every one of which bondmen was to wear a red clout betwixt his shoulders, upon his upper garment; to plow twice a year; to reap as oft; to give aid to the Lord at the feast of St. Michael; to make the Lord's malt, and do other servile work." Concerning two of the abbots of Stoneleigh, the same historian mentions circumstances by no means creditable to the Cistercian monks of this house. William de Gyldeford, the ninth abbot, was deprived, in the year 1235, for "countenancing a shepherd belonging to the monastery to fight a duel, and to hang a thief that had privately stole away some cattell of theirs;" and "there was a complaint made in the 38th of Edward III. against Thomas de Pipe,† the then abbot, that he granted estates to divers persons, for lives, of

* Probably tenants who paid poultry, and other provisions, for the use of the Lord's board. See Blomef. Nor. &c.

† This Thomas de Pipe had some erudition and industry, to palliate the recollection of his errors. By him was composed the Leger-Book of Stoneleigh, a work of great assistance to Dugdale in several parts of his historical labours.

of several fermes and land, without reserving any rent to be paid, to the great prejudice of the monastery; and this was alledged to be for the support of a concubine that he had, called Isabell Beushale, and his children by her, which were more in number, as the record says, than the monks then in the convent." At the time of the Survey taken in the reign of Henry VIII. the revenue of this abbey was found to be 151*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.* On the dissolution the property was bestowed by Henry on Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk; and it afterwards passed to Sir Thomas Leigh, Alderman of London. This gentleman shortly made large purchases of land in the neighbourhood; and, in the 4th year of Queen Elizabeth, he obtained a patent of confirmation for the whole, together with the manor of Stoneleigh. By this Sir Thomas a spacious mansion was constructed on the site of the abbey, and here his descendants have resided to the present time. Sir Thomas Leigh, his great grandson, was a faithful adherent to Charles I. through the whole series of his troubles,* and was created by that sovereign a baron of the realm, by the title of Lord Leigh, of Stoneley, in the 19th year of his reign. It is curious that a strong attachment to the Stuarts pervaded this family, through the whole succession of its Lords, even to the last who died near the close of the 18th century. They never attended Parliament, and resided entirely at Stoneleigh, in eccentric seclusion. Their house was ornamented with numerous portraits of that fallen family, whose calamities the liberal must commiserate, but whom the judicious had long perceived the propriety of discarding from political recollection. Here the Lords Leigh passed existence, with rural sports for employment, quite indifferent to the public affairs of a world, where their fanciful hereditary gratitude could not hope for efficient exercise. The last Lord became subject to entire mental derangement previous

* When the king could not obtain such an admittance as he chose to accept, at Coventry, in August 1662, he repaired for the night to Stoneleigh, where he was received with zealous loyalty. On this occasion it appears that he bestowed the honour of knighthood on the eldest son of his host.

vious to his decease; but his property passed, by a will made earlier in life, to his only Sister, the late Hon. Mrs. Leigh, who died unmarried, and left the estate to the Rev. Thomas Leigh, of Addlestrop, Gloucestershire. At the demise of this gentleman, it came to James Henry Leigh, Esq. his nephew, the present proprietor.

The spacious residence, termed Stoneleigh Abbey, is situate in one of the most luxuriant and picturesque parts of the county of Warwick. The river Avon, here rendered wide even to a magnitude of amplitude, ornaments the grounds in the most attractive way with its classic waters; and woods, venerable and far-spread, bestow an air of dignified quiet on the neighbourhood. A considerable portion of the structure raised shortly after the expulsion of the religious from this choice spot, still remains; but the front and prime features of the edifice consist of a building of free-stone, erected about seventy years back by Edward Lord Leigh, after designs by Smith of Warwick. The present owner is making considerable alterations; and, under his direction, a handsome new bridge is constructing, over the Avon.

One of the most interesting appendages to this capacious residence is a gatehouse, the lingering relic of the ancient monastic pile. This gate was erected by Robert de Hockele, the sixteenth abbot, who died in 1349, and who placed on the outer front a large escutcheon of stone, in memory of King Henry II. the founder of the abbey. The antiquary will hear with regret that, among the alterations effecting at present, it is proposed to take down this venerable fragment!

The church of Stoneleigh is a large but irregular Gothic building, containing monuments to several of the Leigh family, among which is that sacred to *Alice, Duchess Dudley*, and her daughter. The effigies of the deceased are represented in a recumbent posture, beneath a canopy with arms on the facing. The titular Duchess Dudley was wife of Sir Robert Dudley, to the unusual circumstances of whose life we alluded in our notice of Kenilworth. Sir Robert was the son of Robert Dudley, Earl

of Leicester, by the Lady Douglas Sheffield. If any marriage took place between the parties, it was kept secret for a considerable term, and could not afterwards be sufficiently proved. The Earl married another lady, during the life of Sir Robert's mother; and it was not till some time after his decease that the son endeavoured to establish his legitimacy. Legal measures of enquiry took place; but an abrupt termination was put to the proceedings by a special order of the Lords, who directed that all the depositions should be sealed up, and no copies taken without the King's special license. It was now that Sir Robert obtained permission to travel; and we have stated that he never returned. He was a man of rare attainments, and was received into the warm friendship of the Duke of Tuscany, who afforded him a competent pension. He was likewise highly favoured by the Emperor Ferdinand II. who conferred on him the title of a Duke. The lady Alice, who was daughter of Sir Thomas Leigh, remained in England, and died (at her house near St. Giles's church) at the age of ninety, respected and beloved for the active benevolence of her disposition.

In this parish is a range of almshouses, founded by the lady of Sir Thomas Leigh, in the 19th of Queen Elizabeth, for five unmarried men, and the same number of unmarried women; all of whom were, in the first instance, nominated by herself.

BAGINTON HALL is about three miles from Coventry, on the south east. In the reign of Richard II. the manor of Baginton, (written *Babechitone* in Domesday) was possessed by Sir William Bagot, who had here a castellated residence. This Sir William was a firm adherent to his misguided King; but when it was intended, in the year 1397, that a trial at arms should take place between the Dukes of Hereford and Norfolk, the former Nobleman lodged in this building; and hence he issued, on the morning of projected contest, armed at all points, and mounted upon his white courser, "barded with blue and green velvet, gorgeously embroidered with swans and antelopes of Goldsmith's work." Of the castle thus connected with scenes of important chivalry

chivalry there is now no remaining part, except a small and solitary piece of masonry that merely guides the inquirer to the site of the edifice. In the 16th of James I. the estate was purchased by William Bromley, Esq. and by this family, which long flourished on the spot, it is likely that the mansion was constructed in which they afterwards resided. Among those who took arms for King Charles, we find the name of William Bromley, son of the original purchaser of Baginton; and the grandson of that gentleman was the Secretary Bromley, one of the most honest and able servants of Queen Anne. He was several times representative in Parliament for the county of Warwick and the University of Oxford. In the 9th of Queen Anne he was Speaker of the House of Commons; and on the dissolution of the Parliament, over whose meetings in the lower house he presided, he was named one of her Majesty's principal Secretaries of State. A memorable circumstance, appertaining to the residence under notice, proves the high esteem in which he was held by those best able to judge of his talents and integrity. In the year 1706, the family seat at Baginton was reduced to the ground by fire. Intelligence of this calamity was conveyed to the owner while attending his duty in the House of Commons, and a considerable sum was immediately voted by Parliament towards a restoration of the structure.

The mansion erected subsequent to this catastrophe by Secretary Bromley, is of a description suited to a country gentleman of the best order; capacious but devoid of ostentation, and adapted to all the purposes of hospitality, except the parade. In different parts of the house are some interesting family pictures, among which is a full length portrait of the Secretary; and in the library are some curious original letters, several of which are by royal hands. The estate is now possessed, and the mansion occupied, by Mrs. Price, a descendant of this respectable family.

OFFCHURCH, now a small village, is traditionally said to have been a place of note in the Saxon eras. The manor was long vested in the priors of Coventry, and was granted at the Dissolution

lution to the family of Knightley. The present proprietor is J. Wightwick Knightley, Esq. who has here a spacious residence, termed *Offchurch Bury*. A part of this building has marks of considerable antiquity, and it is probable that the priors of Coventry used their messuage on this manor as a place of occasional retirement. To the more antient divisions of the structure large additions have been made, but not without some attention to the original character of the building. A profound, though agreeable, air of retirement, marks the neighbourhood of this seat.

LEAMINGTON PRIORS is indebted to a circumstance of natural produce, and to the partiality of the gay, for recent flattering attentions which now cause it to disdain the name of village. This place, the spa of Warwickshire, is distant from the town of Warwick two miles; from Coventry eight; and from Birmingham twenty-two miles. It is observed by Camden and by Dugdale that Leamington possesses a *salt spring*; and Dr. Thomas, in his additions to the latter writer, says that the inhabitants use it in making their bread. Other springs have been since discovered, and in the year 1797, Dr. Lambe chemically analysed the waters, and found that they contain medicinal properties of the most valuable description. An account of his discovery was inserted in the Manchester memoirs, and the notice of the public was immediately attracted. Several medical persons of high respectability, corroborated the statement of Dr. Lambe; and the diseased on one hand, and the fashionable on the other, hastened to the spot of promise. But these ingenious writers met with a coadjutor in humble life, whose industry and merits should not be forgotten. This was *Benjamin Satchwell*, a laborious tradesman of the then obscure village, who successfully exerted himself in the instituting of a charity, for the gratuitous relief of distressed invalids, to whom a use of the waters might be recommended.

The success of these united endeavours has been truly great. Buildings of a costly and commodious kind, for the reception of
the

the affluent classes, have rapidly accumulated; and the charitable institution is so liberally supported, that, in the part of the year 1812, preceding the 8th of September, 868 baths were gratuitously dispensed to poor applicants.*

The waters are used both internally and for the purpose of bathing. In the Manchester Memoirs† Dr. Lambe gives the following synoptical Table of substances contained in the two springs.

Gaseous Fluids contained in a Wine Gallon in Cubic Inches.

	Water of the New Bath.	Water of the Old Bath.
Hepatic Gas.	too small to be measured.	too small to be measured.
Azotic Gas.	3.5	3
Carbonic acid Gas	.5	

Solid Contents of a Wine Gallon in Grains.

	Water of the New Bath.	Water of the Old Bath.
Carbonat of Iron.	.75	
Oxyds of Iron and Manganese.		too small to be weighed.
Oxygenated Muriat of Iron and Manganese.	unknown, but very small.	unknown, but very small.
Sulphur.	unknown, but very small.	
Muriat of Magnesia.	11.5	58
Muriat of Soda.	430	330
Sulphat of Soda.	152	62
Sulphat of Lime.	112	146

Among the numerous buildings lately raised at Leamington Spa, provision is made for the gay as well as the sick and drooping. A capacious assembly room is completed, with attached apartments for the dissimilar amusements of reading and playing billiards; and a splendid pump-room and neat theatre are in a forward state of preparation. A news room, including a picture gallery and promenade, has been constructed by Mr. Bisset, late of the Museum, Birmingham. The lodging-houses and hotels contain every accommodation which the sick or gay may desire; and, as a circumstance equally connected with the amusement of the fashionable, and the benefit of the convalescent, it must be observed that the scenery around is rural and attractive, and the walks and rides well calculated to add to the celebrity of the waters. The season lasts from April to November.

KIRBY DIVISION

contains the following parishes, hamlets, and townships:—*Atlesley*; *Arley*; *Astley*; *Bedworth*; *Binley*, with the liberty of *Earnsford*; *Brandon* and *Bretsford* (hamlet;); *Brinklow*; *Bulkington*; *Burton Hastings*; *Combe-Fields*, otherwise *Combe Abbey*; *Copston* (hamlet;); *Coundon*; *Easehall* (hamlet;); *Harborough-Magna*; *Monks-Kirby*; *Pailton* (township;); *Shilton*; *Sow* (part of;); *Stretton-Baskerville*; *Stretton-under-Foss*, and *Newbold-Revel* (township;); *Wibtoft* (hamlet;); *Willenhall* (hamlet;); *Willey*; *Wolveley*; *Whythebrook*, with *Hopsford*.

The noble mansion termed **COMBE ABBEY** is erected on the site of a religious house of the Cistercian order, founded by Richard de Camvill, in the reign of King Stephen. This was the first settlement of the Cistercian monks in the county of Warwick, and various benefactors arose, whose pious gifts enabled the abbots and brethren to maintain a course of secluded dignity through the long term of nearly four centuries. When the dissolution of endowed religious houses took place in the time of Henry VIII. the revenues of this monastery were stated at 302l. 15s. 3d. *per ann.*

The



COMB ARMY.

Wm. 1840.

Engraved by J. G. Brown from a painting by J. G. Brown.

The property was granted by Edward VI. to John, Earl of Warwick; and, after the attainder of that nobleman, was leased, at the rent of 196*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.* to Robert Kelway, surveyor of the court of wards and liveries, whose daughter Anne conveyed the possession, by marriage, to John Harrington, Esq. afterwards Lord Harrington. Lucy, the daughter of this Lord, and wife to Edward, Earl of Bedford, became heir on the death of a brother, but the profuse expenses in which she indulged caused the estate to be alienated to the ancestors of the Earl of Craven. In the latter noble family it is at present vested.

The name by which this seat is distinguished implies the flatness of its situation;* but the adjacent country is of a pleasing character, and the attached park, which comprises five hundred acres, is finely adorned with wood and water. The greater part of the present edifice was raised by Lord Harrington, on the ruins of the monastic pile. The form of the structure is that so usual in the early part of the seventeenth century, the half of the Roman H; but, in selecting this mode of architectural disposal, it would appear that his lordship in some measure attended to the shape of the original building. Considerable remains of two cloisters are still to be seen, which mark the course of the ancient structure. These fragments are in careful preservation, and chiefly consist of Norman arches and pillars, which are exhibited on the inner face of a fine corridor that ranges along the lower division of the mansion. The sides of this corridor are hung with antlers, of every growth and size, and various emblems of baronial free warren.

Considerable enlargements have been made by different noble owners, but a laudable attention has been paid to architectural consistency in the great front view. On the west an additional pile has been raised, from a design, as it is said, of Inigo Jones. This division, though by no means allusive to the prevailing character of the edifice, is sufficiently distinct to avoid offending by

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incongruity

* *Cwm*, in the British, and *Combe*, or *Cumbe*, in the Saxon, signify a low and hollow place. See *Antiq. of War*, &c.

incongruity of style, while it forms a fine and judicious augmentation to the interior.

Few ancient mansions contain ranges of apartments better suited to purposes of state and dignified hospitality than Combe Abbey. Many rooms are of noble proportions, and the avenues of communication are chiefly light and spacious. The walls are lined throughout with paintings of high interest, both from story and execution;—accumulated memorials of the taste and liberality of many noble proprietors. From our limited notice of those which appear most attractive, it will be seen that the collection is particularly rich in portraits of the ill-fated Stuart family. This circumstance is to be accounted for in the following manner. William Lord Craven, one of the heroic characters of the seventeenth century, was the most forward, and the most entirely devoted, of the many champions produced by the charms and misfortunes of Elizabeth of Bohemia. This princess was the eldest daughter of James I. and was married to Frederic, the elector palatine, who was advanced to the regal honour, as King of Bohemia, by the revolted states when an attempt was made to shake off the yoke of the Emperor Ferdinand II. The battle of Prague deprived Frederic at once of regal dignity and hereditary right. On descending from the throne he encountered fortune in her most adverse mood, and entered Holland a fugitive and a beggar. Many English cavaliers, the latest offspring of decayed chivalry, struggled without avail to reinstate him in power. The ardour of these knights was partly stimulated by a romantic admiration of Elizabeth his queen. The votaries of this bright star of the Stuarts were numerous *, and it is supposed that at an after-period,

* It was to Elizabeth that Sir Henry Wotton addressed the elegant lines, commencing

You meaner beauties of the night,
That weaklie satisfie our eyes
More by your number than your lighte,
Like common people of the skies,
What are you when the moon doth rise ?

See *Beauties, &c.* for Kent, 1213.

period, when Elizabeth resided in England, widowed in love as well as ruined in hopes, she found consolation in the tenderness of William Lord Craven, and was privately married to him, though political motives forbade the public avowal of her nuptials. By will she bequeathed to this nobleman her collection of pictures, including many original portraits of distinguished persons brought from Germany.

THE GREAT GALLERY

is entirely hung with portraits, among which are *half-lengths of the king and queen of Bohemia*, and of the *princes Rupert and Maurice*, by Houthorst.

Charles the Second, at the age of fourteen, in armour richly studded with gold. Black hair falling on the shoulders, and the features precisely those of advanced life, with an allowance for the variation of age.

Gustavus Adolphus, the great friend of the elector palatine; a spirited and fine portrait.

William Earl of Craven, armed and ornamented with a sash. When the fortune of the elector was sunk beyond a hope of restoration, his lordship entered into the Dutch service; and, although he forbore to interfere with the politics of his native country, his estates were confiscated by the Parliament during the civil war. While looking on this portrait we should not forget the philanthropy and firmness with which Lord Craven braved the horrors of Pestilence during the plague of 1665, with a view to the preservation of civic good order.

We cannot quit the numerous collection in the gallery without noticing a fine portrait of *Sir Kenelm Digby*, by Vandyck, in his best manner.

In the *ante-room* to this gallery are several very estimable cabinet pictures.

The apartment now termed

THE BREAKFAST ROOM

is of magnificent dimensions, and was fitted up for the reception of Queen Elizabeth. The ceiling is well stuccoed, and the panels of the sides are abundantly carved. Over the rich chimney-piece are the Queen's Arms and initials. The principal pictures are five very large and fine landscapes, with figures, by J. Lootens, in one of which is introduced a person drawing, probably intended for the portrait of himself.

THE NORTH PARLOUR

is likewise of noble proportions, and presents the same aspect as when visited by some of the august persons whose portraits now form its most attractive ornaments. The sides are of wainscot, and the massy fire-irons of a past century still occupy the wide hearth. Among the numerous pictures we must be satisfied to notice the following :

Frederic V. King of Bohemia, by Houthorst; a whole length. The king is represented in armour, with a velvet surcoat lined with ermine. The crown, so little worn and so full of cares, on his head, and the inefficient sceptre in his hand. This is a fine portrait, but has more mildness of character expressed in the countenance than would seem suited to so turbulent a destiny.

Elizabeth, Queen of Bohemia,* by the same artist. This is likewise a whole length. The queen is in black, richly adorned with pearls. So much depends on those nameless graces of manner which deride the last result of pictorial art, that we look in vain to the imaged countenance of Elizabeth for the lustrous charms

* This unfortunate princess frequently visited Combe Abbey, in early life, while the mansion was the property of the accomplished Lord Harrington, to whom was entrusted the care of her tuition. Houthorst, by whom this portrait was executed, instructed Elizabeth in the art which he professed.

charms that enslaved alike the poet and the soldier. Female self-esteem trusts to a precarious ordeal, when it hopes to transmit, on cold canvas, to a future age, the look which enchants contemporaries. The form of Elizabeth was by no means conspicuous for elegance; and the countenance would rather appear to express a sullen humour than the habitual melancholy observable in the features of many of the Stuart family.

James, Duke of Richmond, a fine whole length by Vandyck. The duke is in black velvet, his hand resting on a beautiful and favourite greyhound. This nobleman, it will be recollected, avowed his readiness to sacrifice life for the preservation of his royal master and friend, Charles I. The age was too much wanting in such noble spirits; and the duke is said to have proved the sincerity of his professions by speedily sinking to the grave through sorrow, when he found that his votive life was incapable of preserving his friend and king.

THE VANDYCK ROOM

commands a good view over the park, which here displays, in an advantageous point, the fine spread of water that is its great ornament. The paintings in this apartment are truly estimable. We select for notice

Prince Rupert, in youth, and *Prince Maurice* at the same period of life; two excellent whole lengths by the artist after whom the room is named. The features of Prince Rupert are well known to express the bold, but rough and imperious cast of his temper. In early life those indications were less strongly marked, and seldom has the art of painter been exercised on more genuine nobility of figure. Prince Maurice was lost at sea before his character had opportunities of deliberate development. In feature he much resembled his brother, but in general expression there is less of rude grandeur, though equal boldness and fire. Of this latter personage we believe there is no engraving extant.

The portraits of *Charles I.* and *Henrietta Maria* by Vandyck *. This picture was painted by the king's sister to Charles, and was possessed by the Craven family in the reign of that personage to the first Earl. Henrietta Maria is in the act of presenting a wreath for the head, which she is supporting. The king was evidently drawn in an unflattering manner, and his countenance is free from the expression that imparts melancholy to many of his pictures. The dimensions of this curious picture are about two feet six, and the figures are shewn three quarter length by himself. A fine portrait of a truly great

man, Teniers, and Rubens, have also pictures of much interest in this apartment.

In the YELLOW DRAWING ROOM is a representation of *Christ and St. John*, in a landscape, by Rubens; and a portrait of the *Duchess of Cleveland*, by Lely. The gay duchess appears handsomer on this canvas than she is usually painted, but the face is replete with unpleasing confidence. The bosom is exposed in a coarse and degrading manner.

THE GILT PARLOUR

is a room of fine proportions, and well adapted to family comfort. The pictures are not very numerous, but are selected with great taste, and contain some excellent productions of Rembrandt, Zoust, Miereveld, and Vandyck. Among these it would be unpardonable not to notice *A Student with his preceptor*, and *A Father instructing his Son*, two exquisite pieces by Rembrandt. The conception is masterly, and the colouring amazingly fine.

Here

* In the catalogue preserved at Combe Abbey this painting is erroneously said to be by Oliver, after Vandyck.

Here is, also, a whole length of *William Earl of Craven*, in armour, with a baton in his hand, by Houthorst.

IN THE BEAUTY PARLOUR

are twenty-two portraits of ladies, some of which are by Sir P. Lely.

The small apartment termed

THE CEDAR ROOM

is embellished with several interesting specimens of the pictorial art, among which will be observed *A Sea-Piece*, by Willarts, with the Queen of Bohemia on her passage to Holland; and *Moses with the Brazen Serpent*, by Rubens.

The above are the rooms usually submitted to the inspection of the curious. The more private apartments are, likewise, uniformly adorned by productions of the noble art that is so admirably calculated to shed lustre on the mansions of the elevated.

The village of BINLEY, situate near the western border of Combe Park, is conspicuous for its church, a building erected by the late Earl of Craven, and opened for religious service in the year 1772. This structure is of a remarkably decorous character; unassuming yet respectable, and enriched, though not profusely ornamented. The coved roof is embellished with medallions expressive of scriptural history, and with thorny crowns and other circumstances of pious allusion. The altar is in a tribune, with marble pillars; and the east window is filled with painted glass, representing a Holy Family, by Mr. William Pecket.

At Binley was born the Rev. Thomas Wagstaffe, a clergyman of the church of England, who long resided at Rome, in character of Protestant chaplain to the "Pretender." He was author of a Defence of Charles I. and died at Rome in the year 1770.

Within the limits of the hamlet of BRANDON, on the bank of
the

the tower, are the remains of an ancient castle. The precise period at which this castellated edifice was erected cannot be ascertained, but it is known that military service was performed here in the reign of Henry I. at which time the building was denominated Brandon, or Brandune, castle. The ruins consist of a few dissipated pieces of massy wall.

The village of BRINKLOW is three miles from Brandon, on the south bank. On this manor formerly stood a castle, once possessed by the family of Mowbray, and afterwards by that of De Stuteville. Nicholas De Stuteville obtained from King John the grant of a weekly market, to be held on the Monday. A weekly market on the Tuesday was, likewise, granted by Henry III. to Stephen de Segrave. Scarcely any vestiges of the castle now remain, and the neighbourhood is chiefly remarkable for the traces of an encampment discernible on the Roman Foss-way, which passed a little to the east of the village street. The prætorium was judiciously constructed to command an extensive view over the surrounding country. The family of John Ross, the antiquary, whose name will again occur at Guy's Cliff, long resided in this parish. *Newbold Revel*, a seat of the Skipwith family, is distant from Brinklow one mile and a half.

WOMAN-KIRBY is situated scarcely one mile from the Foss-way, near the entrance to this county on the north-east. It is observed by Lyndale "that there are apparent tokens of the Romans having some station here; for, in digging the ground near the church, there have been discovered foundations of old walls, and Roman bricks; as, also, there are three or four heaps of earth in an adjoining pasture, appearing to be monuments of sepulture for some military persons in those days." From these traces, and from the situation of the village, it is probable that the Romans here constructed a place of entertainment for troops on their march.

The name is written *Chirchberge* in Domesday, and the property was bestowed at the Conquest on Geoffrey de Wirce, through whose liberality the monks of St. Nicholas at Angiers

were

were enabled to found here a cell, or alien priory, of their order. In the most prosperous of monastic days the alien priories enjoyed no enviable lot; for it soon became a custom with the governing power to seize their revenues, for military uses, in the instance of a national war with their parent country. Several such interruptions occurred to these monks of St. Nicholas; and, in the reign of Richard II. Thomas Mowbray, then Earl of Nottingham, having obtained permission to found a Carthusian monastery in Lincolnshire, procured the king's license for the abbot and convent of St. Nicholas to make over to him the revenues of this cell, in aid of his foundation.

Near Monks-Kirby is NEWNHAM PADOX, the seat of the Earl of Denbigh. This place is supposed to acquire the second and distinctive part of its appellation from its attached park. At different periods it was termed Newnham juxta Monks-Kirby; Newnham Parva; and Cold Newnham. The estate was purchased by the ancient family of Fielding, ancestors of the present Earl of Denbigh, in the reign of Henry VI. The mansion is substantial and commodious, with an ornamental wing projecting on either side. The walls of various apartments are enriched by good family portraits, many of which are by Vandyck; and to these has been added a judicious selection from those works of the old masters that embrace subjects more generally gratifying.

The dependant grounds gain a high interest from their contiguity to the two Roman roads, the Watling street and the Foss-way. The former lies to the north and east of their boundary; and, at the distance of four miles from Newnham, is High Cross, the presumed Benonæ of Antoninus. Here the roads intersect each other, and on this spot a pillar was erected, in 1712, by Basil, Earl of Denbigh, and some neighbouring gentlemen. The Foss-way runs at a short distance from the park limits on the north west.

The village of ASTLEY, which consists of a few humble cottages and one antient residence of a more commanding character, is four miles to the south-west of the town of Nuneaton. The manor was held in the reign of Henry II. by Philip de Estley of

the Earl of Warwick, by the service of holding that earl's stirrup when he got up or alighted from horseback. The *Astleys*, long flourished on this manor, where they had a castellated mansion; and from this stock are descended the two families of the same name seated, through many ages, at Hill Morton in this county, and at Pattishul, in Staffordshire. Of the latter branch was the chivalric and far-famed Sir John de Astley, Knight of the Garter, whose exploits will require mention in an ensuing page; and several of the family were summoned to Parliament as barons. On the death of Sir William de Astley without male issue, in the reign of Henry V. this estate passed, by the marriage of his daughter, to the Greys of Ruthin, who appear to have occasionally resided here through many descents. Sir Thomas Grey was created Marquis of Dorset by King Edward IV. Henry, Marquis of Dorset, who was raised to the dukedom of Suffolk by right of his wife, fell a martyr to ambition in the reign of Mary. After avoiding the consequences likely to accrue from his rash endeavour to seat his daughter, the Lady Jane Grey, on the throne, he issued proclamations in this county and in Leicestershire tending to incense the people against the intended marriage between Queen Mary and Philip of Spain. The Earl of Huntingdon was speedily sent with a sufficient power to quell his designs; and the duke, forsaken on all sides, secreted himself for some time in the neighbourhood of his castle, on this manor, but was at length taken and beheaded. After several transmissions the manor passed to the Newdigate family, and is now the property of F. Parker Newdigate, Esq.

Astley Castle is at present occupied by a lady, the tenant of Mr. Newdigate. The building is surrounded by a moat, and the remains of massy walls range along the whole inner edge. In some parts these fragments of wall are lofty, but on every side they are crumbled, by time and accident, into forms most favourable to picturesque effect, and are screened by overhanging evergreen, rich in a lovely variety of hues. The area within the walls is not extensive, and the larger portions of the mansion are probably not older than the time of Mary, at which period, on
the



Engraved by J. H. W. del. from a drawing by J. H. W. del. after a sketch by J. H. W. del.

ASTLEY CASTLE.
Warwickshire.

Printed by J. H. W. del. from a drawing by J. H. W. del. after a sketch by J. H. W. del.

ceeded to erect a new church, in the form of a cross, with a spire so lofty that it acted as a landmark in the then deep woodlands of this district, and was popularly termed the *Lanthorn of Arden*. Succeeding lords confirmed and enlarged his bounty; and the structure made progressive advances in magnitude and decoration. Many of the noble persons possessing the manor chose this church as their place of burial, and several chapels were added by the zeal of their well-intended piety. The work of demolition commenced in the reign of Mary, and was guided by the person to whom the Duchess of Suffolk remarried. Other parts of the building were destroyed about the year 1607, and many monuments were then removed and utterly defaced;* but nearly at the same time the present chancel was raised from the materials of a chapel which stood on the north side. The ancient choir is now the body of the church, on each side of which are eight stalls, with painted figures of saints, and scrolls containing sentences of scripture. On the north side of the west end are the alabaster effigies, on an altar tomb, of a warrior and a lady. At the feet of the former is a lion. On the opposite side is an altar-tomb, with the mutilated figure of a female in a recumbent posture; but neither of these monuments has any inscription. The exterior of the building is still handsome, though it forms so inconsiderable a portion of the original structure. At the west end is a square tower, chiefly rebuilt in 1608, and the chancel is marked with the same date. In the windows are some fragments of painted glass.

ARBURY HALL, the seat of Francis Parker Newdigate, Esq. is about two miles from Astley. This mansion was raised on the ruins of an ancient priory, and is indebted to the tasteful exertions of the late Sir Roger Newdigate, Bart. for such improvements as render it a most elegant specimen of the compendious Gothic style,

* Burton, in his description of Leicestershire, p. 51, relates some curious particulars connected with the exposure of the remains of Thomas, Marquis of Dorset, on this occasion. See also, *Antiq. War.* Thomas's edition, p. 113.

style, which Horace Walpole, Earl of Orford, so greatly assisted in rendering fashionable. The house is seated in the midst of a fine and extensive park, well-wooded and adorned with artificial expanses of water. The approach on the north is through a long and magnificent avenue of trees, the lines of which, rich in various foliage, are broken in a manner judiciously conducive to the picturesque. The exterior of the building is entirely cased with stone, and each front presents a separate design of architectural beauty, though all are consistent in general character. We here see the florid style divested of the exuberant and grotesque, and find that extreme lightness and grandeur may be comprehended in the same design.

Sir Roger commenced his task of alteration on a large square house, where the reception of numbers was chiefly studied, with intervening court-yard, and piles of chimney projecting from each front. The chimneys he hid by massy yet ornamental turrets; and deprived the court-yard of its disproportionate size by surrounding it with a cloister. The whole range of principal apartments is finished in the most costly style, and combines a selection of the more beautiful parts of Gothic architecture, made with exquisite taste. The ceiling of the *Dining Room* is enriched with pendant ornaments, and supported by taper pillars. In niches, delicately canopied, are placed good casts from the antique; and in a recess at the farther end is inserted the top of a sarcophagus, brought by Sir Roger Newdigate from Rome, on which is sculptured the marriage of Bacchus and Ariadne. The *Drawing Room* is of moderate but pleasing proportions, and is ornamented in a style peculiarly chaste. Every use is here made of the wild and prolific genius of Gothic designers, with such corrections as occur to the critical taste that perceives their errors by comparison. Inserted in the pannels of this room are five whole length family portraits; and different armorial bearings are introduced, on small shields, in the tracery work of the ceiling. The fine bay window of the *Saloon* looks into the gardens, which are extensive and disposed with much elegance. The

ceiling

WARWICKSHIRE.

This apartment is elaborately worked in imitation of the chapel of King Henry the VII.'s chapel. In a room adjoining the chapel is the well-known picture of which an engraving is given in the Antiquities of Warwickshire. This very curious painting represents the achievements of Sir John de Astley, continuing the story which Dugdale thus writes : " Of the Patshull branch of the Astley family was John de Astley, who, on the 29th of August, 1450, maintaining a duel on Horsback, within the street called St. Antoine, in Paris, against one Peter de Masse, a Breton knight, in the presence of Charles VII. king of France, slew the said Peter through the Head, and had (as by the arms which were then conditioned) the helmet of the said Peter, which he vanquish'd, to present unto his lady. And, on the 20th of June, 1450, of Henry VI. undertook another fight, in Smythfield, within the city of London, in the presence of the same K. Henry VI. with Sir Philip Boyle, an Arragonian knight, who, being then in France, by the K. his Master's command, to look for such hardy person against whom he might try his skill in such armures, and missing there of his desires, repaired hither. And when that combat ended (being gallantly perform'd on foot with battail axes, speares, swords, and daggers) he was knighted by the King, and had an annuity of one hundred marks given him during his life. Nay, so famous did he grow for his valour, that he was elected Knight of the Garter."* In two central compartments of the painting are representations of the combats in Paris and London; and in smaller divisions on each side are eight separate pieces, descriptive of interesting passages connected with those exploits. This ancient picture was presented in 1773, to the late Sir Roger Newdigate, by Sir John Astley, Bart. as an heir loom to Astley Castle, and was removed from that decaying residence to the spot it at present occupies, solely with a view to its preservation. When thus presented it was in a state of absolute ruin through age, but has lately been *restored*, with great care and attention to the original design. It must certainly

* Dugdale's Warwickshire, p. 110.

certainly be ever considered of high value, as a portraiture of the costume and manners of the chivalric age in which Sir John de Astley flourished.

In the truly splendid alterations of Arbury, Sir Roger Newdigate was himself sole architect, and employed only country workmen in the execution of his designs. A work so conducted would necessarily make slow progress; owing to which circumstance the chapel remains untouched by the tasteful hand of the improver. The apartment dedicated to religious purposes by the original builders of the mansion is of fair proportions, and is embellished with some carving by Gibbon. In the picture gallery, and in several other parts of the mansion, are many good casts from the antique.

The late Sir Roger Newdigate, Bart. was a distinguished ornament of the county in which his best years were passed. His education was completed at University College, Oxford; and he retained through life a warm attachment to the scene of his youthful studies, and was a constant friend to the learned institution on which he reflected so much honour. He once made the tour of Italy, because it was then esteemed essential for every man of fortune to make such a tour before he sat down to enjoy the paternal estate; and he again visited that interesting country, from a genuine love of the arts, and a veneration for the classic scenes that had raised in his mind the noblest species of emulation. When he studied his own gratification he sought retirement, but, conscious that affluence afforded no solid pretext for the preference of individual feeling to public duty, he mixed largely in the business of society. He was an officer in the Warwickshire militia, when first that regiment was established; and was, through many sessions, a representative in Parliament of the University of Oxford.* His discharge of the duties of a

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magistrate

* His solicitude for the interests of the University of Oxford, was conspicuous, and will long be remembered with veneration. One act of liberality is so directly connected with his love of the arts, that it requires especial mention.

magistrate was exemplary, and most beneficial to his neighbourhood. The improvements of canal navigation, and every other work connected with the interest of the county of Warwick, met with judicious patronage from his hand. In manners Sir Roger Newdigate was the true English country gentleman of the ancient school; simple, benevolent, and urbane. He died, at Arbury, beloved by his equals and respected by every dependant, in 1806, at the age of 88; and was interred at Harefield in Middlesex.

At a short remove from the park pales of Arbury is a farm called *Temple House*. The building was surrounded by a moat, and in the front are the remains of a lofty pointed window. Attached to the Newdigate estate is a non-descript extent of manor, termed the manor of St. John of Jerusalem, for which the present proprietor regularly deputes a keeper.

ALLESLEY PARK, lately the residence of Lord Clonmell, and at present that of the Rev. J. Neale, is two miles on the north-west of Coventry. This manor is not mentioned in Domesday, as at the time of that survey it was considered a member of the city of Coventry. At an early period it was vested in the family of Hastings, who had here a spacious residence, traditionally termed a *Castle*. "There still remains," writes Dr. Thomas, "a peer of an ancient castle, which seems to have been double moated about; in the innermost moat was found a well, steined about with stone five foot deep, which, being cleansed, proves an admirable spring, and serves the house and offices. By the side of the well there was a stone trough, with five several holes with
bits

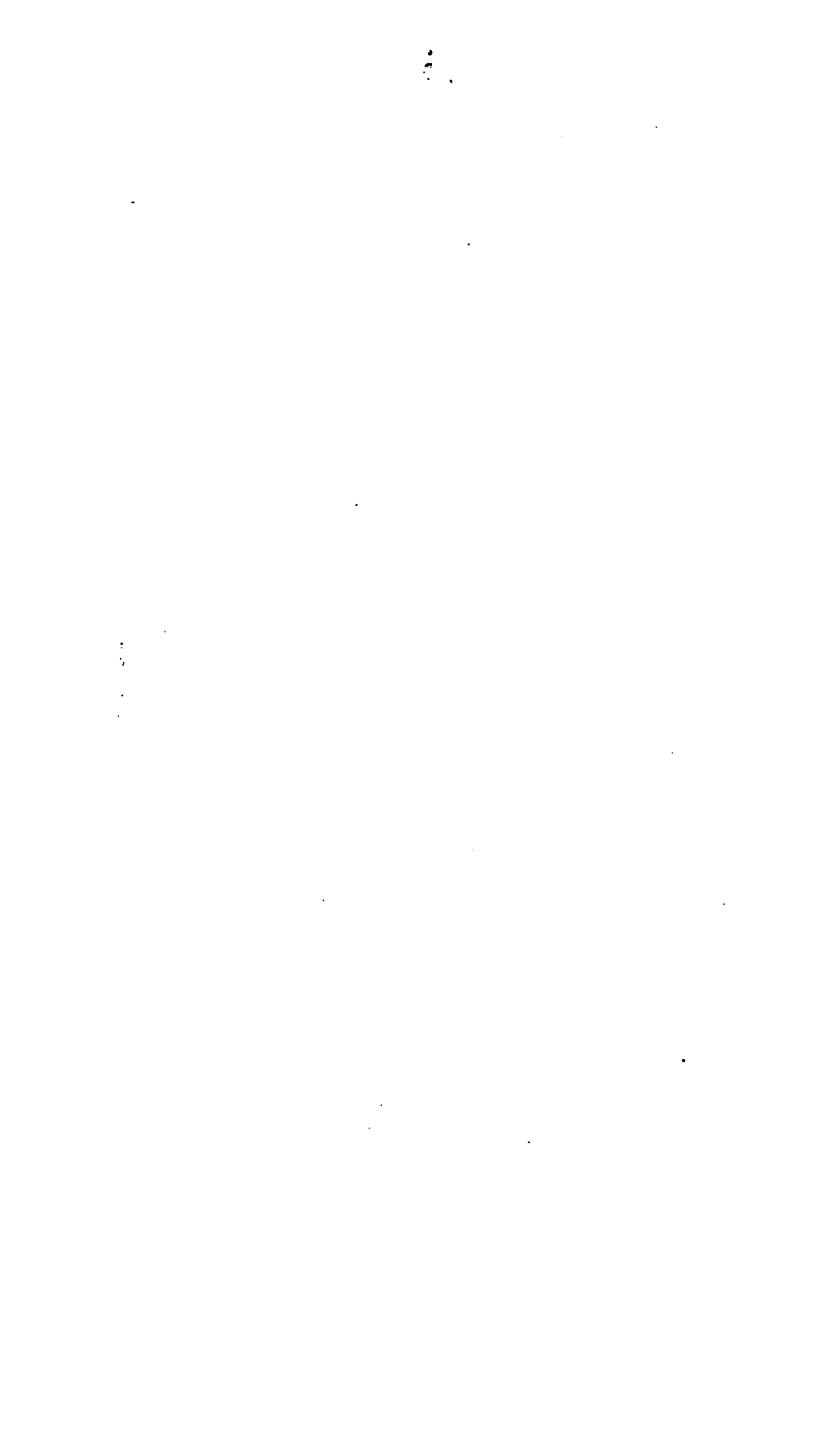
mention. In 1206, the Vice Chancellor received from Sir Roger the sum of twenty guineas, with a request that it might be given as a premium to an undergraduate, who had not exceeded four years from the time of his matriculation, for the best composition in English verse, not extending beyond fifty lines, to be recited in the theatre, after the other prize compositions, at the next commemoration. The subject prescribed was A Recommendation of the Study of the Ancient Remains of Grecian and Roman Architecture, Sculpture, and Painting.



Designed by J. G. Lamb

ALLESTLY PARK
The residence of Lord Almoncy.

See the Plan of Allestly Park



bits of leaden pipes in them, which formerly conveyed the water five several ways." This well is yet open, and the masonry which surrounds it constitutes the sole remain of the ancient edifice. The modern mansion is a respectable instance of the order of buildings in which internal accommodation is studied in preference to arrangement of outward features. The chief front has a central compartment, slightly projecting, with a pediment and vacant tympanum in the upper series. The church of Allesley, a pleasing Gothic building, with a low square tower from which springs a modest spire, was originally a chapel belonging to the priory of Coventry.

CALUDON was, likewise, originally a member of Coventry, and was afterwards possessed by the Earls of Chester. By Ralph, the last Earl, it was given to Stephen de Segrave and his heirs, to hold by the service of "a sore-sparhawk" yearly. The estate continued with the Segraves till the extinction of the male line of that family, and afterwards passed, by marriage, to the Mowbrays. John de Segrave, in the 33d of Edward I. obtained leave to fortify his house here with a moat, and to surround it with embattled walls. It was in this castellated mansion that Thomas Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, lodged previous to the intended combat between himself and the Duke of Hereford, in the time of Richard II. From this spot he commenced his advance to the place of military trial, "on a horse barded with crimson velvet, embroydered with lions of silver and Mulberry trees (*his Rebus*, alluding to the name of *Mowbray*!)" Few relics are now to be seen of the embattled residence connected in so interesting a way with the legends of a chivalric era. The property is vested in the Lords Clifford; and, about forty years back, the father of the present Lord acceded to the wish of a farmer his tenant, and built for the agriculturist a convenient house from the venerable remains. One fragment of a massy wall, and some traces of the moat, yet exist for the gratification of the curious. On the inner part of this fragment are the remains of two pointed windows, now stopped up.

RUGBY DIVISION

contains the following Parishes, Townships, and Hamlet :—*Bilton*; *Bourton upon Dunsmoor*, with the tything of Draycot; *Brounsover*; *Churchorrr*; *Clifton*; *Cosford* (Hamlet); *Dun-church*, with Toft; *Frankton*; *Hill-Morton*; *Lawford*, Church; *Lawford Little* (Township); *Lawford*, long (Township); *Newbold upon Aron*; *Neunham Regis*; *Newton and Biggin* (Township); *Rugby*; *Ryton upon Dunsmoor*; *Stretton upon Dunsmoor*; *Thurlaston*; *Willoughby*; *Wolston*, with Marston.

The town of RUGBY is situate near the eastern border of the county, and is distant about thirteen miles from Coventry, and sixteen from Warwick. The name of this town is written *Roche-beric* in Domesday, and the place was so called, according to Dugdale, from *Roche* a rock or quarry of stone, and *Beric*, a court, or habitation of note. This derivation appears simple and explicit, and agrees tolerably well with the circumstances of the town; for there is a quarry of stone in the close neighbourhood, and the elevated spot on which the town stands has, probably, a similar stratum at no great depth. But, in the *Dictionnaire Celtique*, the appellation is said to be of Celtic origin, derived from *Rue*, a river, and *Bye*, a town. This explanation will also fairly suit the local circumstances of Rugby, for the river Avon waters meads at no great distance from its streets. Very shortly after the compilation of Domesday, the name was written *Rokeby*, and that mode of orthography prevailed through several centuries.

This town is seated on a healthful and pleasant eminence, and consists of various clean and cheerful, but ill-paved, streets. At the time of the Conqueror's survey, it appears to have been a place of little note, and it made few advances towards affluence and celebrity, till a period not far remote from the present. A castle was constructed here, as is supposed in the reign of Stephen; but if conjecture be right in bestowing the date of the structure



RUGBY SCHOOL.

W. G. Smith & Co. Lith.



structure on that reign, it was erected only for a military purpose of a temporary description; and it seems evident that the pile was soon levelled with the ground, as no mention of it occurs in any page of historical record. In the time of Henry III. Sir Henry Rokebye obtained from the crown a charter for a weekly market, and for a yearly fair to last three days. But, although these grants were highly favourable to industry and speculation, the inhabitants failed to make any great progress in commercial importance. Few inland towns, not favoured with the neighbourhood of religious institutions, attained much note or wealth in the early stages of history. Rugby never witnessed the foundation of a monastic pile; but, in the latter part of the sixteenth century, it was honoured with a benefaction still more propitious. At this period a *School* was founded, which has been attended with circumstances singularly felicitous, and now ranks among the first classical seminaries in the country.

Rugby School was founded in the ninth year of Queen Elizabeth, by Lawrence Sheriff, Grocer, of London, chiefly as a free Grammar School for the children of the parishes of Rugby and Brownsover, "and next for such as were of other places thereto adjoining."* For the accommodation of the master, who was, "if it conveniently might be, to be ever a Master of Arts," he bequeathed a messuage, or mansion at Rugby, in which it is probable he had himself resided through the few last years of his life, and he directed that there should be built, near this messuage,

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suage.

* In the act obtained in 1777, to enable the Feoffees and Trustees of the Rugby Charity Estate to grant fresh leases, &c. the bounds of limitation, in regard to boys admissible on the foundation, are thus noticed; "The Boys of Rugby, Brownsover, or any other towns, villages, or hamlets lying within five measured miles of Rugby, or such other distance as the major part of the Trustees present at any public meeting shall ascertain, regard being had to the annual revenues of the said trust estate for the time being, shall be instructed by the said Masters and ushers respectively in grammar, and such other branches of learning as are herein before mentioned, without taking from the said boys, or their parents, friends, or relations, any fee or reward for the same, directly or indirectly."

suage, a fair and convenient School House. To defray the expenses of this foundation, and of a contiguous alms house, he bequeathed the revenue arising from the rectory of Brownsover, and a third portion of twenty-four acres of land, situate in Lamb's Conduit Fields, "near London," and termed the Conduit Close. These eight acres of land were of trivial value at the period; and in 1653, they produced so little, that the commissioners appointed in that year for charitable uses, under the Great Seal of England, were enabled, on duly considering the annual income of this charity, to make only the following decree: "That the Trustees should, out of the rents of the said trust-estate, pay quarterly to the Schoolmaster his salary of three pounds, and to every of the Almsmen his allowance of seven shillings and seven pence, according to the founder's intent; and, out of the remainder of the said rents, should defray the necessary charges of repairing the school, the schoolmaster's house, and the almsmen's lodgings; and the overplus, after the charges of meeting were deducted, which were not to exceed twenty shillings per annum, should be distributed between the Schoolmaster and the almsmen, according to the proportions of three pounds to the Schoolmaster, and seven shillings and seven pence, a quarter, to every almsman." In 1686, the Lambs-conduit property was leased to Dr. Barbon of London, for fifty years, at the annual rent of fifty pounds. At the instance probably of this lessee, a decree of Chancery was procured, making a partition of the land, and allotting to the charity its specific proportion. The expanding precincts of the metropolis now drew towards the hitherto neglected and obscure field, and the leaseholder began to apprehend the possibility of the golden harvest, that in fact ensued, though he did not live to share materially in its advantages. In 1702 (thirty-four years before the expiration of Barbon's term) the trustees granted a fresh lease to William Milman, Esq. afterwards Sir William Milman, of forty-three years; such new grant to commence at the termination of the former lease. At the early part of the last century few persons viewed speculations in
building

building as a probable mode of acquiring wealth, and Sir William Milman obtained his enlarged term of possession for the yearly consideration of sixty pounds. Thus, until the year 1780 the annual produce of the estate belonging to the Rugby charity was only one hundred and sixteen pounds, seventeen shillings, and sixpence. But, shortly after the grant of an extended term to Sir William Milman, extensive streets of commodious family houses were erected, and it was computed that a ground rent of at least one thousand, six hundred pounds would accrue to the charity on the expiration of his lease. A much greater income has, in fact, arisen; and, when the leases then granted shall terminate, it is expected that the revenues will amount to several thousand pounds *per ann.*

It is pleasing to observe that the flourishing finances of this noble institution are conducted in a way calculated to spread wide the beneficent intentions of the founder, and to aid the enlarged scheme of education consequent on the improved manners of later eras. The trustees are twelve in number, and the chief Nobility and Gentry of the county discharge the office with honorable zeal and activity.* By these distinguished persons regular meetings are held; and before them (in the month of August) an annual examination takes place. Fourteen exhibitions have been instituted, and the exhibitioners are allowed the sum of forty pounds *per ann.* to assist in their support, for the term of seven years, at any college or hall they may select for residence, in either University. These are termed "the exhibitioners of Lawrence Sheriff;" and the vacancies are filled up at the annual examination, a scholastic process conducted with exem-

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plary

* The present trustees are :

The Earl of Craven.	Abraham Grimes, Esq.
Lord Viscount Wentworth.	Wriothesley Digby, Esq.
Sir Charles Mordaunt, Bart. M. P.	William Holbech, Esq.
Sir Grey Skipwith, Bart.	Gore Townsend, Esq.
Sir Theophilus Biddulph, Bart.	John Wightwick Knightley, Esq.
Dugdale Stratford Dugdale, Esq. M. P.	Rev. Dr. Berkley.

plary strictness, and which is attended by a member of each of the two Universities, appointed for that purpose by the Vice Chancellor. The scholars are, at present, three hundred and thirty in number, of whom about fifty are on the foundation.

The ancient buildings of this great seminary were such as might fairly suit its limited condition, in the early part of the last century. They chiefly consisted of a humble tenement, used by the head Master for a residence; a principal school room of moderate size; and two or three additional school rooms, constructed at different times, as the finances would allow. The trustees had long meditated the erection of an entire new edifice; and, on a meeting which took place at London in May 1808, it was found that the funds would permit the execution of their purpose. Mr. Henry Hakewill was appointed architect, and by that gentleman designs were submitted to the annual meeting at Rugby, in the ensuing August, which were approved, and promptly acted on.

The new structure is erected nearly on the same spot as the former humble building, at the southern extremity of the town of Rugby; for which choice of site there appear to have been sufficient reasons. It allowed of a front towards the principal street in the town, and was at such a distance from it as to permit the intervention of a quadrangle. The edifice is composed of white brick, and the angles, cornices, and dressings to the windows and openings, are of Attleborough stone. The style of architecture is that which prevailed in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, the period at which the school was founded;—a grateful and elegant compliment to the memory of the founder! Independant of the tacit respect thus paid to the beneficent person with whom the seminary originated, we are decidedly of opinion that Mr. Hakewill selected the character of building best adapted to scholastic purposes; and his design eminently unites the useful with the picturesque. The rooms dedicated to different objects of tuition are judiciously separated; a desideratum in arrangement that occasions much inconvenience in many great public schools. In domestic accommodation the scholars are divided with

with collegiate regularity; and the varieties of avenue allowed by the wild, yet agreeable, style of builders in the 16th century, is an advantage that could scarcely be obtained in a structure raised according to Grecian rules. The building is massy; angust; and interesting from a graceful disposition of parts, rather than from plenitude of decoration. The principal front is that towards the south, which extends two hundred and twenty feet.

The schools are entered by a gateway opposite the street, which leads to the principal court, a fine area ninety feet long by seventy-five feet wide, with a plain cloister on the east, south, and west sides. The buildings on the south of the court comprise the Dining Hall, belonging to the boys in the head Master's house, and three schools for different classes; those on the west are occupied by the great school; and on the north are the French and writing schools. The east side adjoins the offices belonging to the head Master's house; and, by the cloisters on that side, the scholars have access to the matron, &c. without interfering with the domestics of the Master's establishment. The head Master's house is placed at the east end of the range of buildings forming the south front, and adjoins the schools, though in some measure separated from them by the studies belonging to pupils accommodated in his house. These are small rooms in a compartment of building three stories high, and each student has one room for his own use. About sixty boys are thus accommodated; the remainder lodge in the houses of the other Masters, and in different boarding houses in the town.

The head Master's house is suited to the present high character of the institution. The apartments are sufficiently spacious, and from the bed-room floor there is a communication with a gallery extending to the length of the dormitories, which range over the schools, and consist of lofty and well-ventilated rooms.

The whole of the buildings comprehended in the first intention of the trustees are now completed; but the school has so much increased in numbers and reputation, that the trustees have determined

terminated to give it the accommodation of a private chapel, and an application is at present before Parliament to enable them to employ part of the funds in the execution of that design. A structure of this kind is a highly judicious appendage to the noble buildings of the schools, as the parish church of Rugby is not capable of accommodating one half of the pupils.

The almshouses constructed according to the directions of Sheriff were for four poor men, two of whom had been inhabitants of Rugby, and two of Brownsover. The number of almsmen has been carefully augmented in proportion to the increased amount of the revenues. Each almsman is provided yearly with a gown of the value of thirty shillings, and a load of coals, not less than forty hundred weight, and not exceeding forty-four hundred weight. The weekly allowance to each experiences an increase at the discretion of the trustees, with an utter limitation prescribed by act of Parliament.

Laurence Sheriff, the benevolent founder of these institutions, moved in so humble a sphere that few circumstances can now be collected relating to his biography. He was born at Brownsover, a small village near Rugby, and removed to London, where he kept a grocer's shop in the vicinity of Newgate market. Dr. Thomas styles him a haberdasher; a term which appears to signify a general dealer in small wares; and the word grocer, as used in the sixteenth century, probably implies no more. He was, likewise, a servant to Elizabeth, before that princess obtained sovereign power. That he was prudent, and moderately successful, we have sufficient evidence; and it is likely that, in the decline of life, he retired to Rugby, the neighbourhood of his native place, and resided in the "mansion" which he afterwards bequeathed as a residence for the master of his grammar school. Any particular connected with the founder of so eminent an establishment must needs be a desirable addition to the page that narrates the progress of the institution. In Fox's Book of Martyrs occurs the following mention of Sheriff; and though the passage is long, we venture on the insertion of it, as it appears,

in itself, far from devoid of interest:—"Soon after the stir of Wiat, it fortuned that one Robert Farrer, dwelling near unto Newgate market, went, in a certain morning, to the Rose Tavern (from whence he was seldom absent) and falling to his common drink, as he was ever accustomed; and having in his company three other compaunions like to himself, it chanced, the same time, that one *Lawrence Sheriff*, grocer, dwelling also not far from thence, to come into the said tavern, and finding there the said Farrer (to whom of long time he had borne good will) sate down in the seat to drink with him; and Farrer, having in his full cups, and not having consideration who were present, began to talk at large; and, namely, against the Lady Elizabeth, and said *that Jill* hath bin one of the chief doers of this rebellion of Wiatt; and, before all be done, she, and all the hereticks her partakers, shall well understand of it. Some of them hope that she will have the crown; but she, and they (I trust) that so hope, shall hop headless, or be fried with faggots, before she come to it. The aforesaid Lawrence Sheriff, grocer, being then servant unto the Lady Elizabeth, and sworn unto her grace, could no longer forbear his old acquaintance and neighbour, Farrer, in speaking so unreverantly of his mistress, but said unto him, "Farrer! I have loved thee as a neighbour, and have had a good opinion of thee; but hearing of thee that I now hear, I defie thee, and tell thee I am her graces's sworn servant, and she is a princess, and the daughter of a noble king, and it evil becometh thee to call her a *Jill*; and for thy so saying I say thou art a knave, and I will complain upon thee." Do thy worst, said Farrer; for that I said I will say again: and so Sheriff came from his company.

"Shortly after, the said Sheriff, taking an honest neighbour with him, went before the Commissioners to complain; the which Commissioners sate then at Bonner's, the Bishop of London's house, beside St. Paul's, and there were present Bonner, then being the chief Commissioner, the Lord Mordaunt, Sir John Baker; Dr. Darbyshire, Chancellor to the Bishop; Dr. Story, Dr. Harpsfield, and others.

"The

"The aforesaid Sheriff, coming before them, declared the manner of the said Robert Farrer's talk against the Lady Elizabeth. Bonner answered, "Peradventure you took him worse than he meant."

"Yea, my Lord!" said Dr. Story, "if you knew the man as I do, you would say there is not a better Catholic, nor an honestest man, in the city of London."

"Well," said Sheriff, "my Lord! she is my gracious lady and mistress, and it is not to be suffered that such a varlet as he is should call so honourable a princess by the name of a *Jill*; and I saw yesterday, in the court, that my Lord Cardinal Pool, meeting her in the chamber of presence, kneeled down on his knees and kissed her hand; and I saw, also, that King Philip, meeting her, made her much obeysance, and that his knee touched the ground; and then, me thinketh, it were too much to suffer such a varlet as this is to call her a *Jill*, and to wish them to hop headless that shall wish her Grace to enjoy the possession of the crown, when God shall send it unto her, as in the right of her inheritance." "Yea, stay there!" quoth Bonner; "when God sendeth it unto her, let her enjoy it. But, truly (said he) the man that spake the words that you have reported, meant nothing against the Lady Elizabeth, your mistress; and no more do we; but he, like an honest and zealous man, feared the alteration of religion, which every good man ought to fear: and, therefore, (said Bonner,) good man, go your ways home, and report well of us towards your mistress, and we will send for Farrer, and rebuke him for his rash and indiscrete words, and we trust that he will not do the like again: and thus Sheriff came away, and Farrer had a flap with a fox tail."

Besides this great scholastic foundation, there is a school in Rugby built and endowed by Richard Elborow, Gent. of Rugby, in the year 1707, for the instruction of thirty boys. Attached to the school are almshouses founded by the same person, for six widows.

The

The *Church* possesses no great architectural interest; and it is to be regretted that this edifice is much too small for the present population of the town. An enlargement, however, is projected. At the west is a square tower, without buttresses, and quite devoid of ornament. The stone of which it is composed is said to have been taken from the remains of the castle. In the church-yard are buried several of the family of *Cave*, among whom is *Joseph*, (father of the *Edward Cave* to be shortly noticed,) who died in 1747, aged eighty. Over his remains is a table-monument, with an inscription to the memory of himself and his son *Edward*, written by *Dr. Hawkesworth*.

About a furlong to the north of the church, in the grounds attached to a house now occupied by *Mrs. Benn*, are to be seen some slight vestiges of the castle [that once stood at *Rugby*. These chiefly consist of an elevation of earth twenty-one feet wide, and a part of the moat. The whole site of the structure is covered with green sward. *Dugdale* supposes that this was "a little castle," and "that it was one of the buildings raised in *King Stephen's* time; almost all which were demolished by command of *Henry II.* about the third year of his reign."

The town of *Rugby* has a weekly market, and eleven annual fairs. At these fairs are sold considerable numbers of cattle of every description; and the business of that which commences on the 22d of November, is sometimes not concluded in less than a week. But the Grammar-school of *Rugby* is its great support; and the prosperity of the town has evidently kept pace with the progress in resources of that fortunate establishment. Here are no staple manufactures; and the increased facilities bestowed on trade by the improvements of inland navigation, do not appear to have been cultivated with much advantage by the inhabitants. While dependent on its market and fairs, the town consisted of a few narrow streets of low-built incommodious houses. Under the auspices of its flourishing seminary, new buildings are continually rising, and many of these are of a solid and ornamental description.

Dr.

Dr. Thomas, in his additions to Dugdale, (1730) says, that there are in Rugby about nine score and three houses. According to the returns to Parliament in 1801, there were then 292 houses, and 1,487 inhabitants. The same returns for 1811, make the numbers as follow:—houses inhabited 319; uninhabited 15; now building, one. Inhabitants 1,805. Here are two dissenting meeting-houses, one of which was erected about twelve years back at the principal charge of Sir Egerton Leigh.

At NEWTON, near Rugby, was born, in the year 1691, *Edward Cave*, the designer and original publisher of the *Gentleman's Magazine*, a work so eminently conducive to general amusement and information. His family had long resided on a small hereditary estate, the dwelling of which was termed *Cave's-in-the-Hole*, from its low situation, and from the name of the proprietor. But his father having concurred with an elder brother in cutting off the entail of the hereditary property, was constrained to follow the trade of a shoemaker in the town of Rugby. Young Cave profited by the judicious foundation of Lawrence Sheriff, and was one of the most promising scholars of the Rugby institution. But the low-born are exposed to many trials in a large and fashionable seminary. They are often made the tool of affluent pupils, both as to the commission of crime and the reception of punishment; and such appears to have been the fate of Edward Cave, who quitted the school of Rugby in disgust, and was bound apprentice to a printer in London. He afterwards obtained a place in the Post-office; and occupied the time not required by the duties of that situation, in editing various publications of a useful or amusing description. By habits of care and industry he collected a sufficient sum to purchase a small printing-office, and soon commenced the *Gentleman's Magazine*, "a periodical pamphlet," writes Johnson, "of which the scheme is known wherever the English language is spoken. To this undertaking he owed the affluence in which he passed the last twenty years of his life, and the fortune which he left behind him; which though large, had been yet larger, had he not rashly and wantonly

wantonly impaired it by numerous projects, of which I know not that ever one succeeded." It must be observed, to the honour of Mr. Cave's memory, that he dedicated a part of the fortune, thus industriously acquired, to the comfortable support of his aged father. He died in 1754, at the age of sixty-three, and was buried in the church of St. James, Clerkenwell.*

The village of BROWNSOVER, already mentioned as the birth-place of Lawrence Sheriff, is about two miles from Rugby, on the north-east, and is situated on rising ground near the confluence of the Avon and the Swift. "This Town," says Dugdale, "is written *Gaura* in the Conqueror's Survey, the Norman clerks not being used to our English W, but instead thereof frequently using a G. This name of *Waure* (for so it was afterwards for a long time written,) hath its denomination from the eminent site thereof, being on a hill: *Over* importing as much as *Supra*." This latter opinion, however, is controverted by Bishop Gibson, when it concerns places not in the neighbourhood of a parish denominated *Nether*, since he considers it an absurdity to lay down a relative name without a correlative to answer it. In instances like the present he would derive the term from the Saxon word signifying *ripa*, a bank; and, in this immediate case, he is probably correct, for as the term *Waure* was originally applied to this village without a prefix, we can scarcely suppose that it was meant for relative distinction. The term Brown's is derived from *Brūno*, who had lands here in the time of the Conqueror. In this agreeable situation Sir Egerton Leigh, Bart. has a commodious family seat, to which he has lately made considerable additions.

All the eastern side of this division is rich in vestiges of the Roman power. It is bordered by the Watling Street, and has in its vicinity the extensive remains of the great Roman station termed *Tripontium*. In the parish of CAURCHOVER, which is contiguous

* For an extensive and curious account of Mr. Cave, and of many persons connected with the early progress of the Gentleman's Magazine, see Nichols's Literary Anecdotes, Vol. V.

contiguous to that just noticed, are the remains of a considerable tumulus.

COTON HOUSE, one mile and a half from Brownsover, on the north-east, is a handsome stone mansion, erected some few years back by Abraham Grimes, Esq. near the site of an ancient pile long the residence of the Dixwell family, ancestors to Mr. Grimes, who procured the attached manor in the reign of Edward VI. The house stands on an elevated spot, and commands views over picturesque parts of the counties of Northampton and Warwick.

At the distance of about one mile and a half from Rugby, on the south-west, is BILTON, a village which the lovers of genius will approach with respect, for it contains a mansion that was inhabited by ADDISON during a period to which he had looked with the warmest anticipations of joy—that of his matrimonial connexion with the fair Countess of Warwick. The manor of Bilton was procured by the Boughtons of Lawford, early in the reign of James I.; and was purchased, in the year 1711, of William Boughton, Esq. by Mr. Addison, for the sum of ten thousand pounds; in which purchase he was assisted by his brother, Gulstone Addison, governor of Fort St. George, at Madras. It would appear probable that Addison bought this estate with a view to his subsequent marriage; and he resided much here during the brief period of life which succeeded that event. The Countess Dowager of Warwick, his relict, was often at Bilton after his decease; and, on her death, the estate devolved on her daughter by Mr. Addison; who lived here through the long remaining portion of her life, and here died in the year 1797.

Bilton House is a spacious, but irregular, mansion, evidently constructed at different periods. The largest division, and that which comprises the chief suite of rooms, bears marks of the style of architecture which prevailed in the time of the first James, and was probably erected by the Boughton family soon after they acquired possession of the manorial rights. The remainder of the pile consists of a lower range of building, the

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windows

windows of which look towards the gardens; and this part of the edifice would appear to have been constructed early in the eighteenth century, and was, perhaps, formed by Addison when preparing the seat for the reception of its dignified mistress. The house is entered by iron folding gates, which conduct to a venerable porch. The situation is desirably retired; and the windows of the principal rooms command a prospect, which, though limited, is far from destitute of interest.

On entering the mansion a thrill of respect, even to veneration, unavoidably passes through the bosom of the examiner when he finds that the furniture used by Addison still remains; and the pictures, partly selected by his judgment, or procured as a tribute to his feelings, yet ornament the walls, and occupy precisely the same stations as when he was wont to pause and admire them. Seldom has the residence of a poet had the fortune to be so preserved for the gratification of posterity!

Many of these pictures deserve notice from intrinsic merit of execution; and curiosity must needs be excited concerning the character of a collection that once belonged to such a man. The most valuable pieces are portraits; and it will be obvious that many of these were introduced by the Countess of Warwick. Others of Vandyck, Van Somers, Lilly, &c. were purchased by Mr. Addison, and do much credit to the correctness of his taste. We select, from the whole, those which appear to possess the greatest interest:

The Countess of Warwick, in loose blue robes. The face mild and handsome, and the character of expression peculiarly attractive. The age about thirty.

Another Portrait of the same Lady, when about ten years older. This is interesting, as it preserves the appearance of the Countess at the period of Addison's love for her; and the face and figure justify his fondness and perseverance. The Countess of Warwick was the only daughter of Sir Thomas Myddleton, of Chirk Castle, Derbyshire, and grand-daughter of Sir Orlando Bridgman, keeper of the great seal. Addison is said to have

been introduced to this lady in the quality of tutor to her son, and to have conceived from the first an attachment to her person. The Countess is stated to have derived amusement, in the early stages of his overtures, from his diffidence and circuitous methods of advance, and to have been afterwards attracted by his talents and growing renown. This story chiefly rests on traditional anecdote. It is certain that Addison was much engaged in political affairs at the commencement of the eighteenth century: and, in 1706, he was appointed under secretary of state, through the interest of his steady friend, Lord Halifax. It would appear difficult, therefore, to fix the period at which, consistently with his avocations and celebrity, he could accept the office of tutor; for we can scarcely suppose that a man of so much repute and expectation would condescend to the drudgery of instructing a mere child. Whatever might be the mode of his introduction to his future lady, it is known that the marriage was not productive of a permanent accession to his comfort. Perhaps the Countess was hurt, when the familiarity of domestic life threw aside all reserve, by the superiority of her husband's understanding. She had been used to act the tyrant over his affections; and was disgusted, when she became the wife, to find that his wit compelled her to appear in a subordinate character. She now resorted to the most obvious cause of self-gratulation, and endeavoured to reinstate herself in supremacy by a comparison of original rank. Her illustrious husband, however, was no unpatronized man; nor did he owe his patronage to her influence or connexions. In 1717, the year following that of his marriage, Addison was made principal secretary of state; for which appointment he was indebted to Lord Halifax. It is well known that he did not long retain this situation, but retired on a pension of 1500*l.* per annum. His domestic disappointments, though probably pungent, were not of long duration. On the 17th of June, 1719, he expired at Holland-House, under the immediate pressure of a severe asthmatic attack; and we must believe that his death restored the Coun-

less to a level with the rest of the world of taste, and caused her to become once more an admirer of his talents.

Miss Addison, (Addison's daughter by the Countess of Warwick,) *when a child five or six years old*. This lady was born in London, about a twelvemonth before her father's death. She was educated at a school in Queen's Square, London, and was twelve years of age at the decease of her mother. She afterwards had a house in Burlington-street, but resided chiefly at Bilton, where she died in March, 1797. The character of Miss Addison has been subject to some misrepresentation. It is said, on the authority of a lady who had been her companion at school, that she was there distinguished by her marked dislike for her father's writings, and unconquerable aversion to the perusal of them. If this were so, she entertained perverse habit when a child, which was far from forming part of her character as a woman. On indubitable authority we have the power of saying that she was, through mature life, when capable of discernment, a fervent admirer of her father's productions, and was in the habit of repeating many of his poetical pieces. To commit these to recollection was with her a light task, for to a certain degree she inherited her father's strength of memory. But, unhappily, the vivacity and clearness of his other intellectual powers came to her fearfully impaired. For many years she was subject to occasional derangement; and, on this account, it was found necessary for her to live in great retirement. Towards the close of her long life an habitual deafness increased, and she became painfully infirm and helpless. She was now taken in a chair to her father's favorite and retired walk in the garden, where she was placed for a time, for the benefit of air, in a sheltered alcove, or mimic-hermitage, a spot often dedicated by him to solitary thought. She is mentioned with love and veneration by the neighbouring peasantry; and several articles in her will* creditably evince her charitable disposition.

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* Mr. Ireland, in his "Views on the Avon," p. 75, writes, "that some
vague

The Earl of Warwick, Addison's son-in-law, whose memory (except as to the records of the peerage,) is only preserved in the public mind by his connexion with that writer. When Addison lay on his death-bed he sent for the gay and youthful Earl, and pressing his hand, bade him "see how a Christian could die!"

Sir Thomas Myddleton, the Countess of Warwick's father, when a youth. This is a portrait of great character and fine execution.

Mr. Secretary Craggs. To this friend Addison dedicated his works a few days before his death. Craggs was a man of talent and integrity, but sank the prey of a weakness to which, from the other points of his character, he should have been superior. His father, though raised by the Duke of Marlborough to the office of post-master general, was once a barber; and this humility of origin tormented the secretary through life. Addison called this false sense of shame, a vicious modesty.

George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham. A fine whole-length; the figure tall and slender; the face thin, and appearing worn with care, though the casual expression is lively. In his hand is a baton; and in the back-ground is represented the sea-shore near Dover, with several persons on horseback, galloping towards the sea. This is curious, as probably alluding to the duke's secret expedition to the continent, in company with the Prince of Wales.

Prince

vague reports in the country say that Addison left a large trunk of manuscripts, with a strict injunction that they should not be opened till his daughter's decease." This, as may be judged from its complexion, was only a *vague report*. In the *Addisoniana* it is recorded, "that, some time after the death of Miss Addison, the books which she left were removed from Bilton, and disposed of by public sale in London. Not any notes written by her father appeared in them; and only a few of the volumes were distinguished by his name in his hand-writing." The library consisted of 856 lots, and was sold by Leigh and Sotheby, on the 27th of May, 1799, and three following days, for 456*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.* On the fifth day were sold the *Medals*, jewels, &c. for 97*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.*

Prince Rupert, a whole-length, equally fine with the preceding.

Among the many remaining paintings are portraits of Lord Halifax; the Earl of Holland that was beheaded; Admiral the Earl of Warwick; and the poet Dryden.

The gardens attached to this mansion are rather extensive, and are yet preserved in all the formality of the old taste. Straight lines, and long and massy hedges of yew, prevail throughout. In the lower divisions are two ponds, by the side of which are seats, with sombre coverings of yew trained to screen them. On the north side of the grounds is a long walk, still termed Addison's walk, once the chosen retreat of that writer, when intent on solitary reflection. In its original state no spot could be better adapted to meditation, or more genial to his temper. The scenery around is quickly bounded by soft ranges of hills; and the comely spire and gothic ornaments of the adjacent village church impart a soothing air of pensiveness to the neighbourhood. The seclusion of this walk was deepened by lines of trees, among which were some Spanish oaks raised by Addison from acorns given him by Secretary Craggs; but, since the death of his daughter, the axe has been used in this sequestered avenue with merciless freedom. The flower-beds are destroyed, and the hermitage is sinking in unheeded ruin.

The Bilton estate was bequeathed by Miss Addison to the Hon. John Simpson. By this gentleman the house has hitherto been let, together with the furniture; but it is at present occupied only by servants.

The church of this little village, a pile so frequently entered by Addison during the cool period of retirement in which he employed the powers of his pen in writing a defence of the Christian religion, is of fair proportions, and in the most desirable style of gothic architecture. On the west a delicate octagonal spire springs from a square tower. The interior is plain, and divided by an open-work stone screen. Several of the family of Boughton are here interred; and, in the chancel, lie the remains

of the moral and elegant Addison's only daughter; but neither gratitude nor affection has yet found time to place the slightest inscription over the spot of her sepulture!

Two miles to the south of Bilton is DUNCHURCH, a village of some extent, situate on the road to Birmingham through Coventry. A free grammar school, which is a substantial brick building, was founded here, in 1707, by Francis Boughton, of Cawston in this county, Esq. for the reception of a schoolmaster and his family, and for the gratuitous education of all the poor children of both sexes in the parish. From fifty to sixty boys usually attend throughout the day; and many girls are instructed, for about an hour of the morning, in writing, and in the elementary parts of arithmetic. Near the school is a range of almshouses, founded and endowed by the legacy of Thomas Newcombe, Esq. printer to King Charles II. King James II. and King William, for three poor men and as many poor widows, born in this parish.

The church is a respectable Gothic edifice, with a tower of considerable beauty at the west. On the south is preserved the ancient porch. The tower is square, with graduated buttresses; and is ornamented with a high pointed window of curious workmanship, over which originally was placed a statue. The door beneath this window is, likewise, much adorned with Gothic embellishments.

The interior is plain, and contains little that is remarkable. On the south are some traces of the ancient piscina. On the wall of the south aisle is a slab, to the memory of Thomas Newcombe, Esq. who died in 1681; and to that of his son, the founder of the almshouses, who died in 1691. Before the slab are folding doors of marble, intended to inclose and preserve the inscription.

The advowson of this church was bestowed, at an early period, by the family of Clement, in whom the lordship of Dunchurch was then vested, on the monks of Pipewell Abbey, Northamptonshire. It is memorable that when John Dunheved, who succeeded to the lordship in the time of Henry III. purposed to enter upon the

the rights of the church, the abbot of Pipewell assembled a large body of horse and foot, and retained possession by force. It was in the neighbourhood of Dunchurch that some conspirators assembled, in the second of James I. for the purpose, as it was said, of surprising and carrying off the Princess Elizabeth, then at Combe Abbey.

At Little *LAWFORD* (written *Lilleford* in Domesday) stood till lately the mansion of the Boughtons; but in consequence of an unhappy transaction which clouded the fortunes of that family, the hereditary seat is now levelled with the ground. It may be necessary to state the character of this occurrence, but we willingly render our notice of it as brief as possible.

Sir Theodosius Edward Allesley Boughton, Bart. possessed the estate, on the demise of his father, with remainder, if he died before coming of legal age, to his only sister, a lady married to Captain John Donellan. In consequence of a disorder indiscreetly contracted, Sir Theodosius was, in the year 1780, in the habit of taking different medicines; and after swallowing the contents of a phial, unhappily presented to his lips by the innocent hand of his mother, he was seized with the most dreadful symptoms, and in about one quarter of an hour he expired. By the coronor's verdict his death was imputed to his brother-in-law. Donellan was put to the bar, and it was proved, by circumstantial evidence, to the satisfaction of the Jury, that he had substituted a distillation of laurel leaves for the medicine sent by the apothecary. For this dreadful offence he underwent the usual sentence of the law.*

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* The trial is printed at length, and is highly worthy of Inspection. A violent popular clamour, dangerous to the best purposes of justice, was raised at the time, against the suspected, and subsequently criminated, person; but the circumstantial evidence produced was certainly very strong. As a trifling particular connected with this melancholy event, we may observe (though it was not adduced in evidence on the trial) that a respectable gentleman of Warwickshire, on examining the books in Captain Donellan's usual room of retirement, found a Treatise on Poisons, with the leaf relating to laurel water doubled down.

The manor was sold about the year 1790, by Sir Edward Boughton, Bart. to John Caldecote, Esq. and, at the same time, Lawford Hall was disposed of, in lots, as building materials. A portion of the stabling only was suffered to remain, which is now attached to a farm house built near the spot. To this farm-house the site of the ancient mansion acts as garden ground and orchard. Considerable lime works are opened in the vicinity; and, at a short distance, Mr. Caldecote has constructed a handsome and commodious residence.

Church Lawford is a small village on the south side of the Avon; and, on the opposite bank of that river, is NEWNHAM REGIS, so called on account of it having formerly belonged to the king, "as is evident," says Dugdale, "by the *Quo Warranto* Roll of 13 Edward I. where the king's attorney, questioning the prior of Kenilworth for it, alledged that King Richard I. was seized thereof." The canons of Kenilworth, however, enjoyed the property from the time of Henry I. to the Dissolution. This place is not mentioned in Domesday, and does not appear to have been at any period a village of much note. There are now only a few scattered habitations in the parish. The church has been desecrated for many years, and little at present remains except the tower, which is rendered picturesque by a partial screen of ivy. The furniture of the church is said by Dr. Thomas to have been handsome; and on the walls were painted, in fresco, the offerings of the wise men; the taking of the Saviour from the Cross; and full proportions of the four Evangelists. These, according to Ireland, bore the character and style of painting of the time of James I. The cemetery is now converted to a rick-yard, which has been rendered level by layers of bones. Among the persons interred here was Sir Francis Leigh, created Earl of Chichester by Charles I. as a reward for his eminent loyalty.*

In this parish, on the bank of the river Avon, is a bath once of much celebrity. The water is considered a weak chalybeate, and issues from a mineral spring about a mile distant, passing in
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* Grandson to William, younger son of Sir Thomas Leigh, of Stoneleigh.

its course to the bath through a lime-pit. This water is yet in some request, and is found particularly efficacious in scorbutic complaints. A discourse was published, in the year 1583, concerning its merits, by Walter Bailey, physician to Queen Elizabeth.

WOLSTON is seated on the south bank of the Avon, at the distance of three miles from Church Lawford. This is a large and cheerful village, ornamented with a mansion, and rendered desirable by many neat and commodious habitations. *Wolston House*, the seat of Mrs. Scott, is an extensive brick edifice, but placed, perhaps, in rather too low a situation. The attached grounds are rich in natural circumstances, and are finely disposed. On the southern bank of the Avon are the remains of a Roman encampment.

There was in this parish an alien priory, which was a cell to St. Peter's super Dinam, in France. As these cells had not often a regular foundation, it is frequently difficult to ascertain the period at which they were first endowed. Dugdale supposes that this was founded shortly after the Conquest, for which opinion he alleges substantial reasons. It does not appear to have been at any period a flourishing establishment; and, in the time of Richard II. the abbot and convent of St. Peter's disposed of their rights for a valuable consideration to the Carthusian convent near Coventry.

Wolston church is a fabric of cruciform character, evidently raised at different periods. The tower, from its flat proportions, would appear to have been constructed in an early Norman age, and was perhaps built at the time the alien priory was founded. On the south side is a round-headed doorway, which, from its rudeness of execution, may be thought the fragment of a still more ancient structure; and in Domesday there is mention of a church then standing in this place. The other parts are of the Gothic of various eras. The interior is homely, but capacious. On the south of the chancel are still remaining the three stone recesses used by priests during the performance of high mass.

The spot termed **KNIGHTLOW CROSS**, already noticed as the place for payment of the *Wrath Money* due from certain parishes in this hundred, is close to the side of the high road between Dunchurch and Coventry, and is distant from *Ryton upon Dunsmore* about one mile. Here is a tumulus (as the word *Low* implies) probably the burial place of some distinguished Roman. On the summit of the mount a cross was afterwards erected, but this was demolished many ages back. A large block of stone yet remains, in the centre of which a basin is hollowed to contain the *Wrath Pence*. At each corner of the tumulus is planted a fir tree. This elevated spot commands extensive and pleasing prospects, to which the spires of Coventry, rising gracefully in the distance, impart much effect; and it is at the termination of a stretch of road, planted on each side with flourishing firs so as to form a complete avenue nearly four miles in length.

SOUTHAM DIVISION

comprises the following parishes, hamlet, and chapelry: *Ascote* (or Chapel Ascote); *Birdingbury*; *Granborough*; *Hides-Pastures*; (hamlet) *Hodnell*; (extraparochial) *Honingham*; *Itchington, Bishop's*; *Itchington, long*; *Ladbrooke*; *Leamington Hastang*; *Marton*; *Napton on the Hill*; *Radbourn, lower*; (extraparochial) *Radbourn, upper*; (extraparochial) *Shuckburgh, upper*; *Southam*; *Stockton*; *Wappenbury*, with *Eathrope*; *Watergall*; (extraparochial) *Weston under Wetherby*; *Will's-Pastures*; (extraparochial) *Wolfhamcote*.

SOUTHAM is a small market town on the high road from Coventry to Banbury, and is distant from the former place twelve miles. The turnpike road leading from Warwick to the metropolis likewise passes through Southam; and from the traffic on these roads the town derives its chief emolument. It has a weekly market, but little business is then transacted. The whole place wears the aspect of a large village. In Domesday the name is written *Sucham*, and the town is there said to contain

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four hides, having two mills rated at IVs. and woods of one mile in length, and half a mile in breadth, all of which were in the king's hands. The weekly market, and a yearly fair to last eight days, were granted in the reign of Henry III. The church is a handsome Gothic building, with a spire springing from a square tower at the west end.

The village of LONG ITCHINGTON lies on the road to Coventry, at the distance of two miles from the town just noticed. This place evidently derives its name from the little river Ichene, on the bank of which it is situate. The property of the lordship of Itchington, previously to its becoming vested in the two respectable families of Newdigate and Leigh, was peculiarly unfortunate in several of its possessors. John de Pinkney, who possessed a moiety of the manor in the reign of Edward I.* was hung for felony. Sir John de Odingsells, Lord of the manor in the time of Edward III. was outlawed for divers felonies and seditions. His son John received, in the same reign, the king's pardon for breaking the house of William de Sharesull, and robbing it of plate and jewels to the value of one hundred pounds, "with certain gold, in Florens, and other ready money." Another John de Odingsells, in the time of Queen Elizabeth, "put a period to his ancient family, and died in a miserable condition; for, having mortgaged this lordship, he became so poor that had not one Harewood, formerly his tenant, taken him into his house out of pity, he had died in the street."†

The estate now passed to a gay and flourishing lord. The Earl of Leicester, who could afford to expend large sums without danger of the penalties of extravagance, succeeded; and he had the honour of here entertaining Elizabeth, his royal mistress, who is so well known to have had a great taste for costly pleasures when herself was not at the charge of providing them. This festivity took place in the course of the queen's progress towards

* Which moiety he, however, sold to Hugh de Odingsells for one hundred marks of silver.

† Dugdale, p. 344.

towards Kenilworth, in 1575. She arrived at Itchington on Saturday the 9th of July; and we learn from *Laneham*, the historian of that magnificent progress, that "there was pitched here a tent, which for number and shift of large and goodlye roomz might be comparable with a beautifull pallais." This temporary habitation was, indeed, so spacious that it had "seven cart lode of pynz pertaining too it." Pleasant pastime in hunting was prepared to banish tedium from the ensuing ride, so that it was eight in the evening before her highness arrived at Kenilworth.

Itchington is now a small village; but, at the period of the Conquest, and during the ages which immediately succeeded, it appears to have been of considerable consequence. It likewise boasts for a native a man eminent in the pious chronicles of his day; St. Wolstan, who was consecrated Bishop of Worcester in 1062. He was educated in the abbey of Peterborough, but was shorn a monk in the monastery at Worcester, where his father was then living, devoted to religious services. Few bishops of the early ages have been so favourably treated by historians as this prelate: we hear little touching his miracles, but much concerning his real virtues and strength of understanding. His zeal for religion and public morals, when directed by the fanciful piety of the era, unavoidably led to actions which now raise a smile, though they then excited serious admiration;* but all writers concur in ascribing to him simplicity of heart and unbounded benevolence. By Bishop Wolstan the cathedral of Worcester, which had been burned by order of Hardecantte, was completely restored.

BIRDINGBURY is two and a half miles from Long Itchington, on the north-east. This is one of the places which Earl Leofric gave to the Benedictine monks, on founding the monastery at Coventry. The monks granted their interest in this estate to the family of Hastings, of Allesley in this county, who held it by the

* See some anecdotes concerning this prelate in the "Beauties, &c." for Worcestershire, p. 64, and 95.

the service of one knight's fee. After various transmissions the property was obtained, in 1674, by Sir Charles Wheler, Bart. whose son, Sir William Wheler, resigned his right and title to the Lady Dorothy his mother. By this lady the estate was conveyed, in 1687, to Symon Biddulph, Esq. The family of Biddulph were originally seated in Staffordshire, and took their name from the village of Biddulph in that county, "of which," says Dr. Thomas, "they have been lords since the Conquest." The present representative of this family is Sir Theophilus Biddulph, Bart. who has here a venerable mansion, well suited to the needs and purposes of ancient English hospitality.

LEAMINGTON HASTANG (often, but erroneously, written *Leamington Hastings*) adjoins the preceding parish. This village is seated on the south bank of the river Leame, from which circumstance of site it obviously acquires the first part of its appellation: the second it derives from the powerful family of Hastings, who long resided here in all the rude splendour usual with the chieftains of the early ages. In the reign of Charles I. the manor was purchased by Sir Thomas Trevor, one of the barons of the exchequer, who bequeathed it to Sir Charles Wheler, Bart. By Dorothy, the relict of Sir Charles Wheler, an almshouse was founded and endowed, for the maintenance of two poor persons; and, adjoining this institution, is an hospital for the maintenance of eight poor persons of the parish, founded and endowed by Humphrey Davis, in the fifth of King James I. The lands bequeathed by this latter benefactor for charitable purposes it appears were unjustly withheld for twenty six years, but were then recovered, and directed to their intended channel, by the exertions of Sir Thomas Trevor. The building is now fallen much to decay; but a speedy restoration is projected. The Rev. Sir Charles Wheler, Bart. has here an agreeable residence.

In this parish is the hamlet of HERDWICK, from which a branch of the Hastings, mentioned above, took a surname. The Herdwick family once bore some sway in this county, but afterwards removed to Leicestershire, and the name became extinct in
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the reign of Henry VIII. John Herdwick, the last male of this family, is mention by Burton, in his description of Leicestershire, in the following terms: "He was a man of small stature, but of great courage and strength, who, at that time as Henry, Earl of Richmond coming to encounter King Richard III. was lodged at Atherstone, the night before the battle fought, came to the said earl tendring himself and his service, bringing with him men, and certain great horses, and became guide to the earl and his army. This is the man of whom the tradition goeth by an unknown name, by whose good conduct the earl got the advantage of the ground, winde, and sunne." John Herdwick lived at Lindley Hall, near Hinckley.

UPPER SHUCKBURGH, or SHUCKBURGH SUPERIOR, is near the eastern border of the county, and is distant rather more than five miles from the town of Southam. At the time of the Norman Survey the Earl of Mellent held four hides in this place; but, shortly after, the property passed to the family of Danvers. In the 10th of Henry VI. John Shuckborough, Esq. was certified to hold a manor here, by the fourth part of a knight's fee; and the manorial rights have remained with his descendants to the present day. Shuckburgh Hall, the seat of this ancient family, is a capacious and handsome residence, surrounded by an extensive park, which is well stocked with deer, but has lately suffered much in the picturesque beauty of its woodland recesses. There is a melancholy tale connected with this mansion, which we would willingly avoid repeating, if we did not know that such narrations as exhibit the frightful effects of unrestrained passion may "point a moral" for the possible benefit of the listener. In few words the story runs thus:—The daughter of the late Sir Stewkley Shuckburgh, Bart. was fitted equally by charms of person and mind to attract admiration. She was seen by a Lieutenant Sharp of the Bedfordshire militia, and the violence of affection which she created in his bosom the sequel mournfully illustrates. He visited at the house, and was received by her father with the hospitality becoming an English gentleman,

gentleman, until his wishes respecting the lady were discovered. On apparently just grounds of disapproval he was then forbidden the house; and in this sentence of dismissal Miss Shuckburgh concurred. But, though she yielded readily to the determination of parental judgment, she had formed a favourable opinion of the flattering visitor, and had exchanged with him several letters. These tokens of confidence she desired might be returned, on the interruption of their friendship; and Mr. Sharp appointed a time. The lady was to deposit the letters received from him in a summer house of the gardens, and there he promised that the papers signed by her hand should likewise be placed. On the evening of Saturday, the 25th of March, 1809, the letters possessed by Miss Shuckburgh were to be resigned; and she had his assurance that on the succeeding morning she would find those written by herself, on the same spot. She left the mansion at an early hour of Sunday, and was observed by a curious servant to direct her steps to the summer house; but, through all the horrible night, her phrenzied correspondent had lingered about the premises, meditating an action pregnant with blood and terror. On entering the summer-house she found him there. The prying servant had dogged her footsteps. He listened, when near, and heard two voices in earnest dispute. The tone of the lady was evidently repulsive; and presently he heard the discharge of a pistol; and a person fell! In two seconds, according to the calculation of the amazed listener, another pistol was discharged; and a second fall ensued. He now alarmed the family; and, on entering, it was found that this wretched dupe of passion had first shot the object of his tenderest desires, and had then destroyed himself. It is impossible to quit the subject without lamenting that a female of such amiable inclinations, and one so ready to retrieve the first step of misplaced confidence, should be selected for the victim of a madman's fever. At the time of her death, Miss Shuckburgh was about twenty-one years of age.

The title of baronet was bestowed on John Shuckburgh, Esq.
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by Charles II. in the year 1660. The father of this gentleman experienced many calamities, in consequence of his zeal for the royal cause, in the preceding reign. The story of his exertions possesses some interest, and is thus stated by the continuator of Dugdale:—"As King Charles I. marched to Edgcot, near Banbury, on the 22d of October 1642, he saw a person hunting in the fields not far from Shuckborough, with a very good pack of hounds; upon which it is reported that he fetched a deep sigh, and asked who that gentleman was that hunted so merrily that morning, when he was going to fight for his crown and dignity? And being told that it was Richard Shuckburgh, he was ordered to be called to him, and was by him very graciously received. Upon which he went immediately home, armed all his tenants, and the next day attended on him in the field, where he was knighted, and was present at the battle of Edghill. After the taking in of Banbury Castle, and his majesty's retreat from those parts, he went to his own seat, and fortified himself on the top of Shuckborough Hill, where being attacked by some of the Parliament forces he defended himself till he fell, with most of his tenants about him; but being taken up, and life perceived in him he was carried away prisoner to Kenilworth Castle, where he lay a considerable time, and was forced to purchase his liberty at a dear rate." *

Sir George, W. A. Shuckburgh Evelyn, Bart. who died in 1804, represented the county of Warwick in three successive Parliaments, and was distinguished for his ardent love of science. His deep and laborious researches in astronomy and general philosophy, rendered him a valuable member of the Royal Society, and an ornament to the literary character of his country. In private life he is said to have sunk to some defects of judgment, to which an acquaintance with letters should have rendered him superior. By those well able to appreciate his pretensions he is represented as suspicious, irritable, and selfish; as one who was habitually sedulous to ascribe the best-seeming actions of his fellow-creatures to sordid and corrupt motives. We do not believe that

* Thomas's Edit. of Warwickshire, &c. p. 309.



1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes the need for transparency and accountability in financial reporting.

2. The second part of the document outlines the various methods and techniques used to collect and analyze data. It includes a detailed description of the experimental procedures and the statistical analysis performed.

3. The third part of the document presents the results of the study, showing the various trends and patterns observed in the data. It includes several tables and figures that illustrate the findings.

4. The fourth part of the document discusses the implications of the results and the potential applications of the findings. It highlights the importance of the research and the need for further studies in this area.

5. The fifth part of the document provides a conclusion and a summary of the key findings. It also includes a list of references and a bibliography of the sources used in the study.



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that the mathematics could afford him ground for such a degrading habit of opinion; and lament that science had not so far elevated his imagination, as to persuade him that it is probable men may act from a genuine love of honour, even when calculations of interest run counter to their conduct.

The church of Shuckburgh was originally, and is now, a stipendiary cure. The building is of stone, and contains many monuments to different members of the family which has so long possessed the manor. The windows are adorned with some handsome stained glass, chiefly executed by Egginton.

A district now requires notice from its locality, which is entirely distinct from Warwickshire as a county. This is

THE COUNTY OF THE CITY OF COVENTRY.

In the year 1451, King Henry VI. as a mark of especial favour, granted that the city of Coventry, and certain villages in its adjacency, should be constituted an entire county of themselves, incorporate both in deed and name. His charter enacts that the bailiffs of the city shall be sheriffs of the county, and the same officer preside over both. This charter was confirmed by Edward IV.

The county of the city of Coventry is situate in the north-eastern part of Warwickshire, and is chiefly encompassed by the hundred of Knightlow. "The greatest length, from Bedworth to a point near Baginton, in a north-east and southwest direction, is seven miles and a half; and the greatest breadth, from near Nettle Hill to Brownhill Green, in about an east and west direction, is seven miles and a quarter. The district contains in all about 18,161 acres." * The places united with the city of Coventry in the formation of this county are *Anstey*; *Exhall*; *Foleshill*; *Keresley*; *Sow* (part of) *Stirichall*; *Stoke*; and *Wyken*. The mayor and aldermen of Coventry are officially jus-

tices of the peace for the county, and hold quarter sessions in the same manner, and with the same powers, as counties at large. Their privileges, indeed, are numerous, and among these is one that perhaps could not be acted on with satisfaction either to themselves or the public; this is the power of sitting in judgment on capital offences. An office so important they uniformly refer to the judge who travels the Midland Circuit. Although King Henry intended an act of general kindness to the inhabitants when he granted their prescriptive rights, his bounty has obviously entailed one privation on many of them; the freeholders of this county, *as freeholders*, are not entitled to vote on the return of any members to Parliament; as servitude alone bestows a qualification on the citizens of Coventry, and with Warwickshire they have not any political connexion.

The CITY OF COVENTRY is supposed to have been founded at a very early period, as the final syllable of its appellation is evidently the British *Tre*, a town. The prefix to this simple and general term was added by the Saxons, and may rationally be concluded to express the circumstance of a covent, or convent, being erected on the spot; and such a foundation we find to have taken place in a Saxon era. Camden observes that in early history, and in the pontifical decrees, the name of the city was often written *Conventria*; and he instances the expression thus translated "Either the Bishop of *Conventry* is not in his right wits, or he seems wilfully to have quitted common sense." This, it is observed, must relate to Alexander de Savensby, who was consecrated in 1224, and who, according to Godwin, was a very learned man, "but pretended to visions and apparitions scarce credible."

Coventry was certainly not used by the Romans for military purposes, and few vestiges have been discovered to favour the idea of their entering largely on a domestic and tranquil association with the original inhabitants. On excavating the spot termed Broad Gate, in the year 1792, there was found, at the depth of five or six feet from the surface, "a regular pavement,
and

and upon that pavement a coin of Nero in middle brass." * On digging for the foundation of a house, on the site of the old town, a marble figure was discovered about ten inches in height, the right hand leaning on a shield, and the head bound with a fillet resembling wheat. The private as well as public buildings of the Romans, and of the Britons closely connected with them, are known to have been abundantly ornamented with emblematic pieces of sculpture. Most of these were destroyed on the introduction of Christianity; but the figure thus discovered is probably one that eluded the eye of religious reformers †. The more ancient town of Coventry is believed to have stood on the north of the present city, as extensive foundations have been traced in that direction, near the spot termed St. Nicholas's Church Yard.

The Warwickshire antiquary, *Rous*, is the first writer that mentions an early monastery of nuns in this city; and he informs us that when the traitor *Edric* invaded Mercia, and destroyed many towns, in 1016, a house of nuns in Coventry, of which a holy virgin named *St. Osburg* had been sometime abbess, fell a prey to his ferocity. *Leland* says that King *Canute* first founded a nunnery here.

In conducting the History of Coventry to the reign of King *Edward the confessor* we introduce it to an era concerning which we are furnished with documents somewhat more satisfactory, though these are mingled with one of the most fantastical legends that ever met with popular reception. In the early part of *Edward's* reign, *Leofric*, the fifth Earl of Mercia, and his Countess *Godiva*, (sometimes also called *Godifa*, *Godina*, and *Goditha*) founded a monastery on the ruins of *St. Osburg's* nunnery. This *Leofric* was descended from *Leofric*, Earl of Chester, in the time of *Ethelbald*, king of Mercia, and appears to have been a man of eminent talents, as he stood high in the consideration of several

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successive

* An account of this discovery is inserted in the Gentleman's Magazine for 1793.

† This figure is now in the possession of Mr. John Nickson, of Coventry.

successive monarchs, and is placed by historians at the head of various great state transactions. By King Canute he was made Captain General of the royal forces. After the death of Canute he was chiefly instrumental in advancing to the Crown Harold, the son of that king. Edward the Confessor was principally indebted to Leofric for his elevation to the throne, and was subsequently protected, by his wisdom and power, from many of the turbulent machinations of Earl Godwyn. The Countess Godiva was sister to Thorold, sheriff of Lincolnshire, a man much imbued with the piety prevalent in that age, as appears by his founding the abbey of Spalding. She is said by Ingulphus to have been a most beautiful and devout lady.

The monastery founded by this illustrious pair was for an abbot and twenty-four monks of the Benedictine order, and it surpassed all others in the county for amplitude of revenue and splendour of ornaments. Earl Leofric bestowed on it one half of the town in which it was situated, and twenty-four lordships in this and other counties. The king and the archbishop of Canterbury, with a long train of mitred churchmen and powerful nobles, were witnesses to the act of endowment. Pope Alexander confirmed the grant, and added many privileges. In regard to its magnificence of embellishment Malmsbury observes "that it was enriched and beautified with so much gold and silver that the walls seemed too narrow to contain it; insomuch that Rob. de Limesie, bishop of this diocese in the time of King William Rufus, scraped from one beam that supported the shrines, 500 marks of silver." Among the reliques was an arm of St. Augustine, placed in a silver shrine, on which was an inscription purporting that it was purchased of the Pope by Ageluethus, Archbishop of Canterbury.

Earl Leofric died in a good old age, in the 13th of Edward the Confessor, at his house at Bromley, Staffordshire, and was buried in a porch of the monastery church which he had founded. The Lady Godiva appears to have been actuated by zealous and habitual piety. Besides founding the monastery of Stow, near Lincoln,

Lincoln, she conferred numerous benefactions on the foundation at Coventry, "sending," says Dugdale, "for skilful Goldsmiths, who, with all the gold and silver she had, made crosses, images of saints, and other curious ornaments." The period of her death is not ascertained, but she bequeathed her whole treasure to this religious house, "and even at the point of death gave a rich chain of precious stones, directing it to be put about the neck of the blessed Virgin's image, so that those who came of devotion thither should say as many prayers as there were several gems therein." Her remains were interred in the other porch of the monastery church.

With the foundation of its monastic structure commenced the prosperity of Coventry. While the means of commercial interchange were difficult, no town, that had not in its vicinity such mineral veins as were light of access and were essential to the homely needs of a people who had few wants besides those which the sword and the ploughshare might supply, could hope to attract the tide of traffic, without the aid of superstitious fascination. Tribes of devotees; saintly feasts; and monastic largesses, vain-gloriously bestowed alike on the helpless and the indolent, now increased the trade and population of the place, and rendered its tolls and services objects of consideration. From the general character of Earl Leofric, as given by early historians; and from the bountiful and pious disposition he evinced in the foundation of his monastery, it might be supposed that he would not exact these tolls and services, for to him, as lord of the town, they were due, with too rigorous a hand. But it seems the citizens found them a grievance; and concerning the method in which they obtained relief from oppression is told a romantic tale, which we give in the words of Sir William Dugdale: "The Countess Godeva, bearing an extraordinary affection to this place, often and earnestly besought her husband that, for the love of God and the Blessed Virgin, he would free it from that grievous servitude whereunto it was subject; but he, rebuking her for importuning him in a manner so inconsistent with his profit, com-

manded that she should thenceforth forbear to move therein; yet she, out of her womanish pertinacy, continued to solicit him, in-somuch that he told her if she would ride on horseback naked from one end of the town to the other, in the sight of all the people, he would grant her request. Whereunto she returned, *But will you give me leave so to do?* And he replying *Yes!* the noble lady, upon an appointed day, got on horseback naked, with her hair loose, so that it covered all her body but the legs, and thus performing the journey returned with joy to her husband: who thereupon granted to the inhabitants a charter of freedom. In memory whereof the picture of him and his said lady were set up in a south window of Trinity Church, in this city, about King Richard the Second's time, and his right hand holding a charter, with these words written thereon:

*I Lurich for the love of thee
Doe make Coventre tol-free."*

It is said by Rapin "that the Countess, previous to her riding, commanded all persons to keep within doors, and from their windows, on pain of death: but, notwithstanding this severe penalty, there was one person who could not forbear giving a look, out of curiosity; but it cost him his life."

This story appears legendary at the first and slightest glance. The females of the era at which Lady Godiva flourished accounted modesty of attire, and scrupulous seclusion of person, virtues connected with religious merit; and we have evidence that the countess was habitually inclined to perform religious duty to an extremity of attention, and was, indeed, one of the most zealous devotees of the age. Is it then likely that religious feelings would allow her to commit such a strange act of indecency, for the mere exoneration from tolls and duties of a few hundreds of her husband's vassals? But, if we can believe that pious habits were not sufficiently powerful to confirm this lady in the modest reserves which appear born with the sex, and which quit it only

in the last stages of depravity, shall we venture to imagine that a husband ever existed who would allow "the winds of heaven" to visit so freely a beloved wife's person? And that Leofric was a fond and approving husband seems clear from the readiness with which he joined the name of Godiva with his own in the costly religious foundation at Coventry. The coarseness of his conduct, if we suppose him capable of so acting, cannot be attributed to the prevailing barbarity of the age; for female modesty and connubial strictness of conduct were dearly prized at this period, however deficient it might be in minor delicacies of sentiment and exterior polish. Leofric, then, must form an exception to the general feeling; but the man forming such an exception must be besotted, ignorant, and weak. Leofric, however, was neither; he was the counsellor of kings, the defender of thrones, and the patron of the clergy.

In some "*doubts concerning the truth of this indecent transaction,*" communicated to Gough by Mr. Pegge, and printed in the additions to Camden, occurs the following notice of the different writers through whose hands the tale has passed: "Leofric died in 1057, and yet the story is not mentioned by any writer older than Matthew of Westminster, who did not flourish till 1307, 250 years after the fact. The more ancient authors, though they speak of Leofric's foundation at Coventry, and of Godiva's concurrence and benefactions to it, yet they take not the least notice of this circumstance: as, the author of the Saxon Chronicle; Ingulfus; Ordericus Vitalis; Henry of Huntingdon; Simon Dunelmensis; Chron. Mailross; Florence of Worcester; John Abbas de Burgo; and William of Malmesbury; which last, particularly treating of the monastery at Coventry, had a fair opportunity of recording a circumstance so singular. As to Matthew of Westminster he transcribes Hoveden, who flourished A. 1204, as appears by his words and expressions. Hoveden, however, has not a syllable of Godiva's exploit; but Matthew, 100 years after, has added it at large; whence it follows that he was the first reporter, from some vulgar or legendary tradition. It

may be alledged, perhaps, in his favour that the transaction was represented in a window of Trinity Church, at Coventry; the effigies of Godiva and her husband, with an epigraphe expressing that the earl freed the town from tolls at the request of his wife. But, supposing it to exhibit all the particulars included in Matthew's legend, yet, as it was not made till Richard the Second's time, it might be grounded on the testimony of Matthew of Westminster, or Brompton, who likewise lived before Richard II. The same may be said of the processions, or cavalcades, which have long been used annually at Coventry, in commemoration of this event; since, in all appearance, they stand upon no better ground, and have been taken up by the inhabitants, without examination, from authors of little credit."*

But, after consigning this tale to a quiet place among the fabulous crudities of an unlettered period, † Coventry has still cause to look with gratitude on the memory of Lady Godiva. To the protection afforded by the countess and her husband the city is evidently indebted for its early consequence; and a fresh source of power and emolument speedily arose from their descendants. Shortly subsequent to the Norman conquest, the lordship of Coventry became vested, by the marriage of Lucia, grand-daughter of Leofric, in the Earls of Chester. Ranulph, her husband, was a great benefactor to the city; and by the earls of this race was constructed, within the manor of Cheylesmore, on the south side of Coventry, a fortified mansion or castle. Earl Ranulph probably resided much in this place, as he bestowed so much attention on the neighbourhood as to cause four chapels to be erected in as many adjacent hamlets. His son (commonly called *Gernons*) took

* Gough's Camden, Vol. II. p. 346.

† A traditional story of this complexion is not altogether confined to Coventry. The privilege of cutting wood in the *Herdnolls*, by the parishioners of St. Briavel's Castle, Gloucestershire, is locally said, by the garrulous and illiterate, to have been procured of some Earl of Hereford, then Lord of Dean Forest, on the same terms that Lady Godiva obtained the privileges for the citizens of Coventry. Rudder's Gloucestershire, p. 307, &c.

took an active part, on the side of the Empress Maud, in the turbulent reign of Stephen; and being repulsed at Lincoln hastened towards his castle at Coventry, but had the mortification of finding that strong hold already possessed by the forces of the king. On this, according to Hoveden, he promptly "raised a fort," for the purpose of besieging the hostile occupiers of his mansion; but the king posted to the relief of the place, and, after an obstinate conflict, in which Stephen was himself hurt, the earl was desperately wounded and compelled to retreat. During the sway of the Earls of Chester it appears "that the burgesses of Coventry well and quietly held all their possessions in free burgage; and Ranulph, the last of that name, granted them a portmote (or town court,) of their own, in which they might freely hold plea of all things to him, the said earl, or themselves belonging." A part of the charter now bestowed, in which he speaks of "whatsoever merchants they should bring thither for the advantage of the town,"* proves that Coventry was making steady advances towards commercial respectability. This earl procured, in the second of Henry III. a charter for a yearly fair, to continue eight days. In the first year of Edward III. Robert de Montalt, then lord of the manor of Cheylesmore, granted his possession, in default of male issue, to Isabel, queen mother of that king; with remainder, first to John of Eltham, afterwards Earl of Cornwall, and then to Edward King of England. From this annexation to the earldom of Cornwall, Coventry became more immediately the object of royal favour.

Though the city had undoubtedly much profited by the judi-
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* This charter was confirmed by King Henry II. on which occasion many particulars were added, among which occur the following: "If any of the burgesses should happen to make a forfeit to the earl, he should be acquit thereof for XII^d. And if, by the testimony of his neighbours, he were not able to pay so much, they to qualify the sum to the measure of his ability: as, also, that the said burgesses should not be liable to lend unto the said earl, or those that belong to him, any rent, or annual payment, but upon condition that their cattle might be in safety." See Dugdale, p. 137.

cious patronage of the Earls of Chester, its internal resources do not appear to have been great during the periods recently noticed. In the thirteenth of Edward I. the burgesses and inhabitants were empowered by letters patent to take tolls of all vendible commodities that should be brought hither, for the term of three years, towards the charge of paving their town. But twenty years after this grant the work of paving remained incomplete.* Days of more desirable affluence were, however, speedily to ensue.

The greatest impediment to an advance in mercantile consequence, during times so boisterous and unsteady, was the want of fortified barriers, to protect the trader in his speculations, and to insure the safety of the building in which he reposed his goods. In the second of Edward III. the inhabitants received permission to collect a toll towards defraying the expense of *enclosing* their town. Perhaps the internal tranquillity which was produced by the wise government of Edward, rather than a want of means in the citizens, caused the building of the walls not to be commenced for twenty-seven years after this grant was obtained. The city certainly wore a flourishing aspect during this bright reign. Several enactments of Edward evince the riches of the merchants; and it was now that the costly steeple of St. Michael's Church, the admiration of succeeding ages! was designed and partly raised. A house for the reception of Carmelite friars was, likewise, built, on an extensive scale. By this king the civil magistracy of Coventry was constituted a body corporate.

In the time of Richard II. the walls, with their numerous gates and towers, were completed; and the king evinced his affection to this city by grants of various privileges to the corporation. Coventry was now pressing rapidly forwards to the great era of its prosperity and magnificence. Its public buildings increased, and

* At this time Coventry was not reputed a Borough, as it had never contributed above 100 marks to the state when a fifteenth was levied.

and its traders fixed a staple manufacture in the city. The success with which the clothing business was cultivated appears from a grant of the king "that the mayor and bailiffs should, for the space of five years, have his ferm of sealing woollen cloths here, to the value of XXIIII*l.* sterling." It was in the year 1397 that this rash sovereign chose the vicinity of Coventry for the scene of a tragic pageant, that involved, in its consequences, the loss of his crown and life. When Thomas Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, demanded the privilege of vindicating himself by single combat against the accusations of the Duke of Hereford, afterwards Henry IV. the king named Gosford Green, a plot of considerable extent in the close neighbourhood of Coventry, for the place of projected contest. The particulars of this important transaction form so interesting a part of the annals of the city, that the following extracts from Froissart and Holinshed will hardly be deemed too long to be satisfactory :

"These two lordes made provision for that was necessarye for them for their battayle. The Earl of Derby (Duke of Hereford) sent his messangers in to Lombardy, to the Duke of Myllayn, Sir Galeas, for to have armure at his pleasure. The Erle Marshal, on his part, sent in to Almayn, and in to other places, to provyde him for the journey.

"At the time appointed the king came to Coventrie, where the two dukes were readie, according to the order prescribed therein; comming thither in great arraie, accompanied with the lords and gentlemen of their linages. The king caused a sumptuous scaffold or theater, and roiall listes there to be erected and prepared. The Sundaie before they should fight, after dinner, the Duke of Hereford came to the king (being lodged about a quarter of a mile without the towne, in a tower that belonged to Sir William Bagot) to take his leave of him. The morrow after, being the daie appointed for the combat, about the spring of the daie came the Duke of Norfolke to the court, to take leave likewise of the king. The Duke of Hereford armed him in his tent, that was set up neere to the lists; and the Duke of Norfolke put on his armor
betwixt

betwixt the gate and the barrier of the towne; in a beautifull house, having a faire perclois of wood towards the gate, that none might see what was doone within the house.

“ The Duke of Aumarle that daie, being high constable of England, and the Duke of Burie marshall pluced themselves betwixt them, well armed and appointed. And when they saw their time, they first entered into the listes with a great companie of men, appparelled in silke bendall, imbrodered with silver both richlie and curiouslie; everie man having a tipped staffe, to keep the field in order. About the houre of prime came to the barriers of the listes the Duke of Hereford, mounted on a white courser, barded with green and blew velvet, imbrodered sumptuouslie with swans and antelops of Goldsmiths worcke, armed at all points. The constable and marshall came to the barriers, demanding of him what he was: he answered, ‘ Iam Henrie of Lancaster, Duke of Hereford, which am come hither to doo mine indevor against Thomas Mowbraie, Duke of Norfolke, as a traitor untrue to God, the king, his realme, and me.’ Then incontinentlie he sware upon the Holie Evangelists, that his quarrel was true and just; and upon that point he required to enter the lists. Then he put up his sword, which before he held naked in his hand, and putting down his visor, made a crosse on his horse, and with speare in hand entered into the listes, and descended from his horse, and set him down in a chaire of greene velvet, at the one end of the lists, and there reposed himselfe abiding the comming of his adversarie.

“ Soone after him entred into the field, with great triumph, King Richard, accompanied with all the peeres of the realme; and in his companie was the Earle of Saint Paule, which was come out of France, in post, to see this challenge performed. The king had there above ten thousand men in armour, least some fraie or tumult might rise amongst his nobles, by quarelling or partaking. When the king was set in his seat, which was richly hanged and adorned, a king at armes made open proclamation, prohibiting all men, in the name of the king, and of the high constable

constable and marshall, to enterprise or attempt to approach, or touch any part of the lists, upon paine of death, except such as were appointed to order or marshall the field. The proclamation ended, another herald cried ' Behold here Henrie of Lancaster, Duke of Hereford, appellant, which is entred into the lists roiall, to doo his devoir against Thomas Mowbraie, Duke of Norfolke, defendant, upon pain to be found false and recreant.'

" The Duke of Norfolke hovered on horssebacke at the entrie of the lists, his horse being barded with crimosen velvet, imbrodered richlie with lions of silver and mulberie trees; and when he had made his oth before the constable and marshall, that his quarrell was just and true, he entred the field manfullie, saieing alowd, ' God aid him that hath the right;' and then he departed from his horse, and sate him downe in his chaire, which was of crimosen velvet, coutined about with white and red damaske. The lord marshall viewed their speares, to see that they were of equall length, and delivered the one speare himselfe to the Duke of Hereford, and sent the other unto the Duke of Norfolke by a knight. Then the herald proclaimed, that the traverses and chaires of the champions should be remooved, commanding them, on the kings behalfe, to mount on horsseback, and addresse themselves to the battell and combat.

" The Duke of Hereford was quicklie horsced, and closed his bavior, and cast his speare into the rest; and when the trumpet sounded, set forward couragiouslie towards his enemy six or seven paces. The Duke of Norfolke was not fullie set forward, when the king cast down his warder, and the heralds cried ' ho, ha!' Then the king caused their speares to be taken from them, and commanded them to repaire againe to their chaires, where they remained two long houres, while the king and his counsell deliberattie consulted what order was best to be had in so weightie a cause. Finallie; after they had devised, and fullie determined what should be doone therein, the heralds cried ' silence;' and Sir John Bushie, the kings secretarie, read the sentence and determination

termination of the king and his counsell, in a long roll: the effect whereof was, that Henrie, Duke of Hereford, should, within fiftene daies, depart out of the realme, and not to returne before the term of ten yeares were expired, except by the king he should be repealed againe, and this upon paine of death: and that Thomas Mowbraie, Duke of Norfolk, because he had sowed sedition in the realme by his words, should likewise avoid the realme, and never to returne againe into England, nor approach the borders or confines thereof, upon pain of death; and that the king would staie the profits of his lands, till he had levied thereof such summes of monie as the duke had taken up of the kings treasurer for the wages of the garrison of Calis, which were still unpaid.

"When these judgements were once read, the king called before him both the parties, and made them to swear that the one should never come in place where the other was, willinglie, nor keepe any companie together in any foreign region: which oth they both received humblie, and so went their waies."

The next particular connexion of one of these intended combatants (the Duke of Hereford) with Coventry, is of a far different character. As King Henry IV. he held a Parliament here, in the year 1404. This was the Parliament since styled *Parliamentum indoctorum*, and from sitting in which all lawyers were prohibited. The meeting was held in a great chamber of the priory. The matter in request was a supply of monee for the defence of the realm against the Scots and Welsh, and it was proposed to raise the sum wanted by divesting the church of some temporal superfluities. This unavoidably produced much opposition, and the Archbishop of Canterbury delivered a long harangue, in which, after enumerating the many services rendered by churchmen towards the well-being of the state, he observed, "that, besides all this, they were not wanting, day nor night, by masses and prayers to implore God's blessing for the king and all that served him." In reply, the Speaker of the Commons (Sir John Cheyne,) "said, with a stern countenance, *that he valued*

not the prayers of the church." The ecclesiastics, however, were successful in their opposition.

The great favour conferred by the sixth Henry, in constituting the city and contiguous district a separate county, has been already noticed. Coventry, indeed, appears to have been at this period a city well deserving of regal partiality. Its religious buildings were numerous and splendid; its embattled walls were massy and in high preservation; its merchants were spirited and enterprising, and we have proofs that they were affluent and generous. Religious pageants were often presented by the Grey Friars; and the hock-tide pastimes, founded on the massacre of the Danes in 1002, assisted in drawing throngs of strangers to the gay and populous city. Both Henry and his magnanimous queen* were constant in their attachment to Coventry; and, perhaps, passed here some of the most tranquil and pleasing hours of their chequered lives. In the Leet Book belonging to the corporation is preserved a curious account of circumstances connected with one of Henry's visits.† From this it appears that, "on the XXI day of September, 1450, the kyng, our soverain lord, cam fro Leycester toward Coventre;" and was received by "the meyre and his wurthy bredn, arrayed in skarlet, and all the comonaltie cladde in grene gownes and redde hodes, in *Hasselwoode*, beyonde the brode oke. The mayre and hys peeres lyghten on fote and mekely thries kneleing on ther knees, did unto our soverain lorde ther due obeysaunce; the mayre seying to hym thes wordes: 'Most highest and gracious kyng, ye are welcom to your true liege menne, withe all our hertes.' After whiche the mayre, be avyse of counsell, hadde no mase in his honde; but hys serjant attendeng upon the meyre, the wordes afore

* Coventry was styled the secret harbour of Q. Margaret.

† This memorial is inserted, at length, in a judicious collection towards the History and Antiquities of Coventry, printed in that city; and we have an opportunity of knowing that it is there faithfully copied from the original.

afore rehersed sayde, put the mase in the mayres honde; and the mayre, kysseng the mase, offurd hit to the kyng; the kyng, tarieng and herkeneng the meyres speche in faverabull wyse, seyde thes wordes: "Well seyde, Sir Meyre, take your hors." When "the kyng come to the utter yale of the priory, he forthewith send for the meyre and his bredurn, be a knyght, to come to his p'sence, and to speke with hym in his chambur;" where the "recórdur seyde unto the kynghe suche wordes as was to his thynkyng most plesaunt; our soverren lorde seyeng agayne. thes wordes: "Sirs! I thank you of youre goode rule and demene; and, in spesiall, for your goode rule the last yere past; for the best ruled pepull theanne wilhein my reame; and also I thank you for the p'sent that ye nowe gave to us." The whiche p'sent was a tonne wyne, and xx 'tie grete fat oxen." On Michaelmas Day the king went in procession to St. Michael's Church: "The meyre and his peres doeng to the kyng due obeysaunse when he com fro' his chambur, toke his mase and bere it afore the kyng, till he com to Sent Michels, and brought the kyng to his closette. Then the Byshoppe (of Winchester) in his pontificals arayede with the all the prestes and clerkes of the seyde churche, and of bablake, with the copes apareld, went on in p'cession abowte the churche-yarde; the kyng devowtely, with many odor cordes, followed the seyd p'cession bare-hedded, cladde in a gowne of golden tissu, furred with a furre of marturn sabull."—"And, at evesong tyme the same day, the kyng, be ii for hys body and ii yomen of the crowne, sende the seyde gowne and furre that he were when he went in p'cession, and gaf hit frely to God and to Sent Michell, insomuch that non of the that brought the gowne wolde take no reward in no wyse." On the following Tuesday "the kyng toke is hors, and rode forthe toward Kyllengworthe," attended by the mayor and his peers, with the commonalty, "till they com on to a plase beyonde Astill Grove, agayne a brode lane the ledethe to Canley."

In the year 1459, a second Parliament was held in this city,

which, like the former, was sufficiently memorable to gain an epithet in history, though one of an ungracious character. This was the violent meeting in which attainders were passed against Richard, Duke of York, the Earl of March (afterwards Edward IV.) and the Earls of Salisbury and Warwick. This Parliament was termed by the Yorkists *Parliamentum Diabolicum*, and all its acts were afterwards reversed.

In the year 1469, the Earl of Rivers, and his son John, were beheaded on Gosford Green, by order of Sir John Coniers, a commander in the army of northern insurgents which had obtained some success in the neighbouring county of Oxford. King Edward IV. in whose reign this sanguinary act took place, was anxious to win the esteem of the City of Coventry; himself and the queen kept festival here during the Christmas of 1465; but his utmost blandishments had not power speedily to erase from the minds of the inhabitants an affectionate regard for the House of Lancaster. In 1470, the Earl of Warwick, then intent on the destruction of the monarch whom he had enabled to reach the throne, entered Coventry with ordnance and other warlike stores. Edward shortly marched from Leicester; and, after resting at Combe Abbey, approached Coventry. He halted on Gosford Green, and demanded entrance but finding the city hostile he resumed his march, and lodged that night at Warwick. When reinstated in power by the victories of Barnet and Tewksbury, he revenged this insult by depriving the citizens of their liberties and franchises; or, in other words, by levying on them a fine of 500 marks, for that was the sum paid by Coventry for a restitution of its privileges. The good-will of the inhabitants was, however, of too much consequence for Edward to treat them with continued harshness, or even with the indifference of neglect. He kept here the feast of St. George, in 1474. His son, the ill-fated Prince Edward, in the same year was one of the godfathers to a child of the mayor;*

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I

and,

* At the same time the prince was presented with a cup, and one hundred pounds.

and, three years afterwards, he was made a brother of the guilds of Corpus Christi and St. Trinity. This notice from the court sufficiently evinces the great political importance of the city at that period.

Richard III. visited Coventry, and was a spectator of the pageants during the festival of Corpus Christi. Immediately subsequent to the decisive battle of Bosworth Field, Henry VII. repaired hither, and lodged in the mayor's house. He was probably received with hearty satisfaction by the inhabitants, as they promptly presented him with a hundred pounds and a cup; and it is remarkable that Henry, in this instance, exercised the regal authority so recently obtained by conferring knighthood on the mayor. The opulence of the city during this reign is proved by its contributing the sum of 1100*l.* "towards the tax levied for the king going into France, in 1490."

Henry VIII. and Queen Katherine visited this place in 1510, "when there were three pageants set forth; one at Jordan Well, with the nine orders of angels; one at Broadgate, with divers beautiful damsels; and one at Cross Cheping; and so they passed on to the priory."* In 1525, the city was favoured with the presence of the Princess Mary; on which occasion the mercers' pageant, superbly habited, was placed in Cross Cheaping to grace her arrival. She remained two days at the priory, and on her departure was presented with 100 marks and "a kerchewa." When the Dukes of Richmond and Norfolk passed through Coventry, in 1534, they were received by the mayor and citizens in their liveries; and, after a banquet in the street on horseback, they proceeded to Combe Abbey.

We have seen that Coventry was indebted for its early prosperity to the magnitude and importance of its monastic establishment; and much of its opulence and splendour through succeeding ages must, unquestionably, be attributed to the same source. A great priory at once protected the pauper and encouraged the merchant;

* Dugdale's Warwickshire, p. 149.

merchant; and not only afforded a temporary palace to kings, but continually attracted throngs of all ranks from the most distant parts, intent either on purposes of devotion, interchanges of religious amity, or speculations of traffic. It will readily, therefore, be apprehended that the city felt a great shock on the dissolution of monastic houses. But we find difficulty in believing, as was stated by John Hales, Esq. to the Protector Somerset, "that, in consequence of the dissolution, trade grew so low, and there was such a dispersion of people from this city, that there were not above 3000 inhabitants, whereas formerly there had been 15,000." We must think this picture of desolation overcharged, as it is certain that at least one staple branch of commerce, the clothing trade, was now advantageously cultivated. In alleviation of the prevailing distresses, a charter for an additional fair was granted to the remaining inhabitants.

Queen Elizabeth visited Coventry during her progress through this part of the kingdom in 1565, and was received with a variety of splendid shews and pageants. "The sheriffs, in their scarlet cloaks, and twenty young men on horseback, in a livery of fine purple, met her majesty at the extremity of the liberties of the city, towards Wolvey; each of them presented to her a white rod, which she receiving delivered to them again; they then rode before her until they came near the city, where the mayor and aldermen, in their scarlet gowns, also met her majesty." After several ceremonies, "the recorder presented a purse supposed to be worth twenty marks, and in it 100*l.* in angels, which the queen accepting was pleased to say to her lords "It is a good gift, an hundred pounds in gold; I have but few such gifts," To which the mayor answered boldly, "If it please your grace, there is a great deal more in it,"—"What is that?" said she. "The hearts," replied he, "of all your loving subjects."—"We thank you, Mr. Mayor!" said the queen; "It is a great deal more, indeed," *

From the speech made by the recorder on this occasion we learn that the city was now far from being in a prosperous condition. In this oration, after a statement of many former circumstances of splendour, and a detail of various favours conferred by princes and nobles, occur the following words: "Now, as your majesty hath heard the first advancement and flourishing state of this city; so the bewraying of the lamentable ruin and decay thereof, partly by fatal adversities, partly by other occasions not meet at this time to trouble your majesty with, it would be tedious to your majesty to hear, and grievous to us to remember, and therefore I pass it over in silence, with great good hope conceived of a speedy repair thereof. The coming of your majesty, with whose present estate it hath pleased God to bless this city, doth bid, and, as it were, prognosticate the conversion of a bad fortune into some better and prosperous estate: so as after a long and huge dark tempest the pleasant beams of the sun appearing glad and comfort every moving creature, even so doth the delectable presence of your majesty's royal person so ravish and stir up the hearts of the inhabitants of this your poor city, lately oppressed with the cloudy care of their unfortunate adversity, that the joy and comfort of the same cannot be expressed though I had Cicero's eloquence." One cause of the despondence that had lately prevailed may be found in the ravages of the plague, which had fatally wasted the city in the preceding year; but it appears that the trade of Coventry had been uniformly on the decline since the suppression of religious houses. The clothing business was now falling to decay, and no fresh manufacture was yet introduced as a substitute. The ardour of the natives was damped. They saw the gorgeous piles of religious splendour, so long their pride and boast, one vast heap of ruins. Long accustomed to consider their city the *chamber of princes*,* they now viewed its streets comparatively deserted; and they yielded to adversity perhaps with too few struggles.

Queen

* So Coventry was popularly termed in its most prosperous seasons.

Queen Elizabeth lodged, during her visit, at the White Friars (then a seat of the Hales family;) but Coventry soon received within its walls a princess whom no blandishments awaited:— In 1566, the unfortunate Mary, Queen of Scots, was conducted to this city, and was confined as a prisoner in the mayoress' parlour. Three years afterwards she was again brought hither, and kept in confinement at the Bull Inn (on the site of which the barracks now stand) under the care of the Earls of Shrewsbury and Huntingdon. During this mournful period the citizens kept watch and ward, night and day, at every gate, that none might pass without examination.

How abruptly must delineations, which profess to give only the prominent features of topography, pass from the wretched to the gay and reckless! During Queen Elizabeth's stay at Kenilworth, in 1575, the ancient pastime termed *Hock Tuesday* was performed for her entertainment by some Coventry men, under the direction of the famous Captain Cox.* Her majesty laughed heartily at the representation, and rewarded the performers with two bucks and five marks. It is worthy of observation that this pastime, formerly held in annual practice, had been discontinued for the last eight years, owing to the interference of certain sour and precise preachers; but, under the sanction of Elizabeth, it was now, for a short time, joyfully resumed by the inhabitants.

In 1610, King James I. addressed a letter to the mayor, aldermen, and sheriffs, and the archdeacon of Coventry, commanding the inhabitants to receive the sacrament kneeling; and when, in 1619, application was made to this sovereign for a renewal of the city's charter, he refused to grant it until assured that his will in this particular had met with uniform attention. James honoured Coventry with a visit in 1617; at which time a long oration was delivered by Dr. Holland, the well-known translator, dressed in black satin. In this speech he notices the still declining

* See article Kenilworth Castle.

clining state of the place, and implores the king's protection. He does not forget to compliment the "powerful pen" of his regal auditor, and assures him that there is not known within the city, or county, "one recusant priest, or schismatical separatist." The king was presented with a silver cup of forty-five ounces weight, curiously wrought, and 100*l.* in money. He appeared much gratified by the present, and said, "Out of this Coventry cup wherever he went he would drink."

The Princess Elizabeth and Prince Henry likewise visited Coventry at different times. In 1605, a present was made to the princess, (then at Combe Abbey, the seat of Lord Harrington,) which would appear to be somewhat curiously chosen for a lady—two fat oxen, worth 18*l.*

In the civil war which terminated fatally to Charles I. Coventry was well inclined to play an active part, though, by a singular felicity, it escaped those miseries of siege and devastation to which so many other armed towns were subjected.—When the king repaired to Leicester, in 1641, after having raised his standard at Nottingham, he demanded the attendance of the mayor and sheriffs of this city, but the popular party prevented their acceding to his desire. The Earl of Northampton (at that time the city recorder,) tried his influence in collecting persons friendly to the royal cause, but was able to muster only four hundred. The Parliamentarians wore the colours of Lord Brooke, and were so much more numerous, that the recorder judged it expedient to make a precipitate retreat, and escaped, with great difficulty, through a back door of the Bull Inn. The ammunition in the town was seized, and removed by Lord Brooke to Warwick Castle, while his party was shortly reinforced by 400 men from Birmingham. When the king sent a herald at arms to demand entrance, he was informed that the citizens would willingly receive his majesty, and 200 of his followers, but no more. "Incensed at this treatment, the king's party planted cannon on Stivichall-hill in the park; as also on the brow of the little park quarry, and fired several shot against the walls of the

town,

town, but with little effect; one man only was killed, and he through his own carelessness. The king finding the citizens determined to defend themselves, and hearing that Lord Brooke, with an army from London, was approaching, drew off his forces that night. Some few days afterwards Lord Brooke arrived, with an army of 7,000 foot, exclusive of cavalry. At this time many of the royalists, who had worn the Earl of Northampton's colours, were sent prisoners to Warwick; whilst the property of others who had fled was sequestered.*

In the following year the city was garrisoned by the Parliament. One of the aldermen (named Barker,) was appointed governor, and a regiment of infantry, and one troop of cavalry, were raised from the most active of the inhabitants. Every precaution was taken to strengthen the place. Trenches were cut on the outside of the walls; and sluices were opened at the influx of the river Sherbourn. Some of the gates were stopped up; and, before three, half-moon fortifications were erected. Cannon were planted on all the principal towers; and many of the women of the city "went by companies into the great park to fill up the quarries, that they might not at a future period harbour the enemy. They were collected together by sound of a drum; and marched in military order, with mattocks and spades, under the command of an amazon named Adderley, with an Herculean club upon her shoulder; and were conducted from work by one Mary Herbert, who carried a pistol in her hand, which she discharged as a signal of dismissal."

The mayor chosen in 1744, was found to be not sufficiently hearty in his opposition to the royal cause. He was, therefore, not permitted to serve the office, and the governor was appointed to succeed him. This military magistrate wore a sword and a buff coat under his gown, and was accompanied by a troop of cavalry when he proclaimed the great fair. Thus voluntarily did the inhabitants, in the fever of the moment, place their civil rights in the hands of military despotism.

* Coll. towards History, &c. of Coventry, p. 69.

The place remained garrisoned till the end of the year 1659; but, when the Restoration was voted by Parliament, Charles II. was promptly proclaimed by the mayor and aldermen, amidst great acclamations of joy. Drums were beaten, trumpets sounded, and the different companies of infantry fired several volleys on the occasion. A deputation shortly waited on his majesty, and presented a bason and ewer, with fifty pieces of gold; at the same time surrendering to him all the king's lands, with the great park. On the day of coronation Smithford Street and Cross-Cheaping conduits ran claret; and bonfires were lighted in the evening, in testimony of loyalty.

King James II. was at Coventry in 1687. The streets through which he passed were strewed with sand; and the fronts of the houses were whitened, and dressed with green boughs. "George, Lord Dartmouth, attended the king on this occasion; and when his majesty was presented with a gold cup and cover, he immediately gave it to Lord Dartmouth, saying, 'I would have your lordship receive this cup and cover as a mark of the city of Coventry's concern for your father.' During the time of the civil wars it appears that Colonel W. Legge (his lordship's father,) was confined in Coventry gaol, after being taken prisoner at the battle of Worcester; he, at length, made his escape, through the exertions of his lady, in the habit of an old woman."** How differently would Charles II. have received this present from the city!

The *Ecclesiastical History* of Coventry, as connected with the bishopric, requires separate notice. Shortly after the Mercian kingdom was divided into five bishoprics, that of Lichfield was so far extended as to comprehend the chief part of the former possessions of the Cornavii. Peter, elected bishop of Lichfield in 1075, moved the see to Chester; and Robert de Limesie, in 1102, removed it again to Coventry, tempted, probably, by the riches and reputation of the monastery founded by Earl Leofric. The five succeeding bishops likewise sat at Coventry; and the whole

* Collections, &c. p. 34.

whole of these six prelates styled themselves *Coventriæ Episcopi* only. Hugh Novant, archdeacon of Oxford, consecrated bishop in 1188, restored the see to Lichfield, though with much opposition from the Benedictine monks of Coventry, who had gained an accession of repute from the bishop's residence, without forfeiting their particular influence; for although their superior lost the name of abbot, and became, as prior, only substitute to the bishop, in whom the abbacy really was vested, he yet remained, like his predecessors the abbots, a baron of parliament. The farther injuries committed by this prelate to the Benedictine monastery will be seen when that religious foundation comes under more immediate notice. In consequence of disputes which now took place between the Chapter of Coventry and that of Lichfield respecting elections, both parties agreed, in the reign of Henry III. to the following regulations: that the bishop should be elected both from Coventry and Lichfield; that the precedence in the episcopal title should be given to the former city; that the two chapters should alternately choose their bishop; and that they should form one body, in which the prior of Coventry should be the principal. From this time, until a period comparatively recent, the prelate was styled bishop of *Coventry* and *Lichfield*; and these regulations remained in force till that great era in ecclesiastical concerns, the dissolution of monastic houses. In the 33d of Henry VIII. an act was passed which ordained "that the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield should be for ever the entire and sole chapter of the bishopric of Coventry and Lichfield; whereof the prior and convent of the dissolved priory of Coventry were heretofore the moiety, or half-part." Such remains the constitution of the bishopric at the present day; but when, on the restoration, the truly excellent Hacket was appointed to this see, he gave the precedence in titular designation to Lichfield,* and his example has been followed by succeeding prelates.

The

* To which change he was induced by the different parts taken by the the

The diocese of Lichfield and Coventry comprehends five hundred and fifty-seven parishes, of which two hundred and fifty are impropriate; and it extends over the whole of Staffordshire, except the parishes of Brome and Cleint; the county of Derby, the greater part of Warwickshire, and nearly the half of Shropshire. This bishopric is valued in the king's books at 559*l.* 18*s.* 2*d.** The tenths of the clergy amount to 590*l.* 16*s.* 11*d.* According to the charter of the 14th of Charles I. the bishop is to act as a justice of the peace within the town and liberties of Salop.

The CITY of COVENTRY is ninety-one miles from the metropolis, on the N. N. W. and is distant from Birmingham eighteen miles, and from Warwick ten.—“The town of Coventrye,” writes Leland, describing the appearance of the place in the reign of Henry VIII. “by west is set on a low ground, but by east it somewhat *condescendeth*. It was begun to be wallid t. Edward II. and has six gates, and many fair towers. It is but a late ago since the walls were finished. There be many fair streets, well builded with timber. There be divers fair suburbs without the walls. The king hath a palace there, now somewhat in

two cities in the civil war. Dr. Hacket was one of the most firm and disinterested among those who steadily adhered, in these trying times, to the church and the king. His conduct when exalted to the mitre was equally exemplary. He lies buried beneath a raised tomb, ornamented with his recumbent effigies, in Lichfield cathedral; and several anecdotes concerning him will be found under the article Lichfield, in the “Beauties” for Staffordshire.

* In the Collection towards the History and Antiquities of Coventry, the rents and revenues of the bishopric during several periods are stated as follow:—

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
7th and 8th of King Edward IV. - - -	984	13	1½
21st and 22d of King Henry VII. - - -	1152	10	3½
23d and 24th of King Henry VIII. - - -	1247	15	10½
26th of King Henry VIII. in the whole - - -	795	17	6
And at the same period clear - - -	703	5	2
The computed annual value at present is	2800	0	0

in ruin. The town rose by making of cloth and cappes; which, now decaying, the glory of the city also decayeth."

The chief parts of Coventry are seated on gently elevated ground: and the city is watered by the Radford and Sherbourn brooks. The view of a town to the approaching traveller usually rests for interest on some few prominent features; on a few public buildings which rise superior to the mass of habitations, and direct the attention to eras of important story, by displaying the architecture of ages in which the place has conspicuously flourished. Coventry is fortunate in this particular. It has three spires, (one of pre-eminent beauty, and the others deficient in attraction only from a comparison with St. Michael's,) which rise high in the air, and prepare the examiner for an entrance to a place of great population and striking architectural importance. But the traveller's expectations are not altogether gratified as he advances, and takes, in a cursory manner, a nearer view. The approaches are uniformly mean and bad; and, on entering the city, a person accustomed to contemplate the improved buildings of recent periods, looks in vain for the affluence of domestic architecture which he has been induced to anticipate. The streets are very narrow, and the foot-ways are formed of sharp pebbly stones, which remind the passenger of days in which it was a penance of severe infliction for an offender to walk a furlong with his feet unguarded. In scarcely any instance do we recognize, on a large scale, the hand of modern improvement, or see the progress of such steps of internal accommodation as are now usual in places of much less real wealth and importance. Coventry has been peculiarly fortunate (for so it must needs be termed,) in escaping conflagration. There has not been any fire of an extensive spread since the oldest house now standing was erected.*—In consequence, it presents the aspect of a city of the sixteenth century;

* The only instance of a serious alarm from fire is thus recorded:—"In 1553, a fire broke out in four parts of this city; the common bell rang, which amazed the inhabitants so much that they knew not what they did; watch and ward was kept night and day, but no harm ensued."

century; the upper parts of the houses project, as was customary in ages when a free circulation of air formed no part of the builder's calculations; the streets are merely of the width that was judged necessary when the transit of carriages was slow and of rare occurrence:—and the eye accustomed to modern amplitude of dimensions is not agreeably surprised at the view.

But the circumstance that tends to the displeasure of the ordinary examiner, affords a harvest of high gratification to the lover of domestic architectural antiquities. Houses replete with the venerable traces of the fifteenth century are yet standing in several divisions; the freshness of complexion only injured by age, and the main works still firm in massy, and almost impregnable, oak. A person imbued with such a taste must derive true pleasure from a perambulation of this city. The specimens of the style prevailing in different eras are strongly marked, and of the most gratifying description. To some are attached circumstances of local story, which add to their interest; and others possess peculiarities of construction well worthy of the antiquary's notice. In many instances, where the front has experienced alteration, the interior still remains untouched; and the costly character of the carved embellishments here to be seen, explain, without the trouble of appeal to record, the prosperity of the place during the reign of the latter Henries.

The city is viewed to much advantage from the north-east. The whole of its churches stand here disclosed with great pictorial effect. St. Michael's, beautiful and attractive when seen from any point, forms the prominent feature. Its sister-spire (that of Trinity church,) rises modestly beyond, as if retiring in confessed secondariness of pretensions. The tower of St. John's, and the steeple of the Grey-Friars, ascend on either hand, and complete the display. The spot from which the two steeples that so eminently ornament Coventry are seen with the most striking effect, is in the neighbourhood of the now desolated priory, on the margin of Priory-Mill Dam. This view conveys in so satisfactory a manner an idea of the architectural beauty of the two





fine elevations, that we have caused an engraving of it to be made from a drawing by the late Clarendon Smith.*

The length of the city of Coventry, from Hill Street Gate to Gosford Gate, is about three-quarters of a mile, exclusive of the suburbs. The walls, no longer necessary to the preservation of civic security, are completely reduced; but traces of these, and of several of the gates, are yet discernible. The progress of their erection, and the period at which they were demolished, will shortly be noticed. The streets are numerous, and intersect and deviate from each other without any resemblance to regularity of design, but merely as an extension of need required, and a possession of property favoured. Though less has been done towards improvement than might be expected in so populous and commercial a place, some new domestic buildings have lately been raised, and these are uniformly substantial, commodious, and eligible. Previous to 1762, many of the streets had but one channel, which ran down the centre. In that year was passed the *Scavenger Act*, under the regulations of which the thoroughfares meet with a commendable increase of notice.

The religious, and other public edifices of Coventry, are truly worthy of attention. The *Churches* are three in number. That of *St. Michael* is a beautiful specimen of the Gothic, or English style. The first mention of a religious building so dedicated on this spot, occurs in the reign of Stephen, at which time Ralph, Earl of Chester, rendered it to the monks of Coventry, by the term of the Chapel of St. Michael. Ralph, the last earl of that name, gave to this church the tithe of his lands and rents in Coventry. The Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield shortly claimed the advowson; but, by an agreement between the prior and that prelate, it was arranged that the monks should provide secular priests, and other fit ministers, to serve the several chapels appended to the structure. In the 44th of Henry III. the church was regularly appropriated to the prior and monks. In
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* Obligingly offered for that purpose by Mr. John Nickson, of Coventry.

the year 1291, it was valued, with its chapels, at fifty marks per annum, and the vicarage at eight marks and a half. In 1534, the vicarage was rated at 65*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* per annum, out of which 2*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.* were paid annually to the archdeacon of Coventry, for procurations and synodals. The Prior of Coventry, likewise, received a yearly pension of five pounds, and the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield 1*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* The patronage is now vested in the Crown. The chantries founded in this church, and endowed with a yearly revenue for the maintenance of priests, who were daily to sing mass for the souls of the donors, or of persons named by them, were as follow:—*Merynton's Chantry*, founded by Hugh de Merynton in the 17th of Edward II.—*Shepey's Chantry*, founded in the 4th of Edward III. by Laurence Shepey, of Coventry, and endowed "with one messuage and two shops, for the maintenance of a priest to sing mass daily at the altar of St. Lawrence within the same church, for the soul of the said Laurence, and the souls of his father and mother, Mand, his wife, and others."—*Haye's Chantry*, founded in the 12th of Richard II. by Henry del Hay, of Coventry, girdler.—*Preston's Chantry*, founded by John Preston, of Coventry, during his lifetime, in the 13th of Henry IV. for two priests, to sing mass daily at the altars of the Holy Trinity and the Blessed Virgin.—*Crosse's* Chantry*, founded in the 13th of Henry IV. for a priest to sing mass at the altar of St. Katherine.—*Pyseford's Chantry*, founded by one William Pyseford, but at what period is not ascertained. The revenue, in the 37th of Henry VIII. was 26*l.* 9*s.* and it is pleasing to find that the superstitious zeal created in the donor's mind by the force of custom, was blended with a charitable inclination, the offspring of genuine philanthropy:—the larger portion of the income was dedicated to the assistance of six poor men and their wives, who had been honest householders within the city, and had fallen to decay. Two other

* John Crosse was mayor of Coventry in 1394. He erected a font in this church; and afterwards, in conjunction with other citizens, began the building of St. Mary's Hall.

Other chantries are likewise known to have existed, termed the *Taylor's* and *Sherman's*, and *Tate's*; but only little is ascertained concerning their character.

The most ancient part of the present fine structure is the steeple, which was begun in 1373, and was finished in 1395. It was built at the charge of William and Adam Botoner, who were several times mayors of Coventry, and who are said to have expended on this work one hundred pounds per annum till it was completed. An elevation more delicate in symmetry, more chastely ornamented, or more striking in general character, was, perhaps, never designed by the great school of builders who ranged, without restraint of rule, over all the beauties which genius could combine for the purpose of effect or display. It commences in a square tower, no portion of which remains blank, though not any superfluous ornament is introduced. The windows are well proportioned, and the buttresses eminently light. In various niches are introduced the figures of saints; and each division is enriched with a bold, but not redundant, spread of embroidery work and embossed carving. This tower is 136 feet three inches in height; and on it stands an octagonal prism, 32 feet six inches high, which is supported by eight springing arches, of graceful and easy character. The octagon is surmounted by a battlement, from within which proceeds a spire, 130 feet nine inches in height, adorned with fluting, and embossed pilasterwise. The walls of the spire are said by Beighton, "to be 17 inches thick at the bottom, and so finely tapered, as to recline but $4\frac{1}{2}$ degrees from the perpendicular." The beauties of the steeple are so evident to the common eye, that they need no aphorism of the scientific to impress them on the attention; but it may be observed that, according to local tradition, Sir Christopher Wren pronounced the structure a masterpiece of the art of building.

The body of the church is usually supposed to have been erected in the time of Henry VI.; and, from the character of the architecture, it is probable that the chief parts were constructed

in the early part of that sovereign's reign.* That the church was complete in the latter years of Henry, is evident, from the account already given of his attending religious service here. The whole is of the best character of Gothic, light, though august, and impressive from a felicitous arrangement of parts. The interior consists of a body and two side aisles, divided by lofty arches with clustered pillars. The windows of the upper story, which range along the whole of the sides, are ornamented with ancient painted glass, expressive of various religious subjects. The ceiling is of oak, ribbed and carved. On each side of the nave is a gallery; and amongst the excellent furniture of the church is a good organ. In the steeple is a melodious chime of bells, an advantage which the church first possessed in the year 1429. In 1794, a frame-work was constructed within the tower, at a considerable expense, as material injury to the building was apprehended if the bells remained in their ancient situation. In 1807 the whole were freshly hung, on an improved plan; at which time the tenor, weighing upwards of thirty-two hundred, was recast.

Trinity Church is in the immediate contiguity of St. Michael's; and loses much in estimation, as a structure, from the comparison inevitably forced on the spectator's mind by this close neighbourhood of site. The building approaches to the cruciform character; and from the centre rises a square tower, out of which directly issues a lofty spire; but, from the want of
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* It is said, in the way of tradition, that a brass tablet was found in the church, with the following inscription:

William and Adam built the Tower,
Ann and Mary built the Spire;
William and Adam built the Church,
Ann and Mary built the Quire.

That these sisters contributed to the building of the choir, in 1434, at which time it is known that large works were going forward in the church, may be likely. But the spire and the tower were, assuredly, the performance of the same architect.

that octagonal prism, which adds so much to the beauty of St. Michael's, the steeple is subject to a comparative deficiency in lightness, injurious to the effect that must otherwise be produced by its really fine proportions. The original spire of this church was blown down in the year 1664. The new building was completed in 1667, and is composed of stone taken from a quarry without New Gate. The entire height, from ground to apex, is 237 feet. The faces of the tower have been highly worked, though with much less delicacy than the building of St. Michael's; but it is to be lamented that both churches are formed of a friable stone, found in the neighbourhood, which perishes rapidly under the vicissitudes of weather; a circumstance destructive of the more elaborate touches of the chissel so patiently bestowed on the decorations of each. The east end of the church was taken down in 1786, and rebuilt in a style tolerably consonant to the general character of the structure.

Trinity Church was appropriated to the Priory of Coventry in the 44th of Henry III. In 1291, the 19th of Edward I. it was valued at twenty marks, and the vicarage at two marks. In the 26th of Henry VIII. the vicarage was rated at 33*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* *per annum*; out of which issued a pension of 100*s.* to the prior; 16*s.* in procurations and synodals; and to the churchwardens, for a quit rent yearly for the vicarage-house, 20*s.* The patronage is now vested in the crown. There were formerly appended to this church the following chantries:—*Percy's*, founded in the 23d of Edward III. *The Chantry of the Holy Cross*, founded in the 30th of Edward III. *Lodyngton's*, founded in the 16th of Richard II. *Corpus Christi* Chantry, the foundation of which is not known. *Allesley's*, founded in the reign of Edward I.; and *Celler's*.

The interior of Trinity Church is marked by that studious cultivation of twilight gloom so often found in the works of Gothic designers; and modern "beautifiers" have not imparted any portion, either of lightness or elegance, by a free bestowal of paint and gold leaf where opportunity would permit. The monu-

ments are few ; but the examiner will not pass entirely without interest the spot sacred to the remains of Philemon Holland, the well known translator. On the south wall of the choir is a tablet, with the family arms, and the following Latin inscription :

Epitaphium

Doctoris Hollandi a seipso confectam, qui obiit 9 die Fe-
bruarii, 1636, et 85, ætatis suæ.

Nemo habet hic, nemon ? hospes salve, Philemon

Holland hæc recubat ritè repostus humo ;

Si quæras, ratio quænam sit nominis, hæc est,

Totus terra fui, terraq.—totus ero ;

At rediivus morte tuâ servabor, Jessu,

Tua Fides votis hæc est via sola salutis,

Hæc spe fretus ego, culpâ, penâque solatus.

Jamq. renatus, et inde novo conspectus amictu,

Cætu in sanctorum post redimitus ero.

Claudicat incensu senior mea Musa, videsne ?

Claudator capulo mecum simul ipsa : valet.

Philemon Holland was the translator-general of a period in which it was too much the fashion to lock up literary treasure in the language of the schools. His most valuable labour was a translation from the original Latin of Camden's *Britannia*. He appears to have been precisely fitted for his task, and to have possessed more industry than genius. He took pride in writing a folio volume with one pen ; and composed on the occasion the following epigrammatic lines :

With one sole pen I wrote this book,

Made of a grey goose quill ;

A pen it was when I it took,

A pen I leave it still.

“ This monumental pen,” says Fuller, “ he solemnly kept ; and shewed to my reverend tutor, Dr. Samuel Ward.” Concerning the number of his translations a contemporary poetaster wrote this distich :

Holland

Holland with his translations doth so fill us,
He will not let *Suetonius* be *Tranquillus*.

Holland was born at Chelmsford, and a biographical notice of him will be found in the volume of this work, including Essex, p. 260. He was a doctor of physic, and settled in Coventry at an early period of life, but attended more to literature than to the duties of his profession; and we are sorry to be enabled to make an addition to the biographical notice already given, which proves that his favourite pursuit failed to screen his declining years from the miseries of poverty and dependance. In the common-council book of Coventry is the following entry:—
“1632. 24 Octr. Forasmuch as Dr. Holland by reason of his age is now groune weake, and decayed in his estate, and being a man of good deserts, in respect of the abilities wherewith God hath indowed him: this house, taking him into consideracon, are pleased and agreed that there shall be three pounds six shillings and eight pence given him from henceforth, on the 24 Octr. for three yeres, if he shall so long live.”

St. John's Church is a respectable stone building of the cruciform description, with a low and weighty tower rising from the centre. In the buttresses on the southern side are four niches for saintly figures, now vacant; and similar recesses, though of a smaller character, occur in other divisions. The interior is plain, and much incumbered by the four massy pillars which support the tower. The land on which this church stands was assigned by Isabel, the queen-mother of Edward III. for the building of a chapel, termed Bablake Chapel, in honour of the Saviour and St. John the Baptist; which was finished in five years, and dedicated in May, 1350. A residence for the seclusion of an anchorite was anciently constructed in the vicinity of the chapel. After experiencing long neglect, the church of St. John was made a rectory, by act of Parliament, in 1734, and settled on the master of the Free-School in Coventry, the patronage being vested in the Corporation. The building was, at the same time,

repaired and new pewed, and underwent afresh the ceremony of consecration.

The most important of the buildings connected with civic business or ceremonials, is *St. Mary's Hall*. This structure has attracted the notice of many eminent antiquaries, and is well calculated to convey to the living age a just idea of the magnificence of Coventry, when the city was the resort of devotees, and the favorite *Chamber of Princes*. The foundation of the building is connected with the ancient *Gilds* of this city. It will be recollected that gilds, according to their original constitution, were associations for the purposes, of religion, of charity, or of mercantile pursuit; and, sometimes, all these objects were blended in the views of one fraternity. The brotherhood had their annual feasts, or periodical neighbourly meetings; and various privileges were latterly granted to them by license from the crown. The period at which gilds were introduced to England is beyond record. The first established in Coventry was that in the 4th of Edward III. which was intituled The Merchants' Gild, and consisted of an association of brethren and sisters, who had liberty to choose a master, or warden, and were allowed to make chantries, bestow alms, and perform other acts of piety. At different periods several other gilds were formed; and, for the accommodation of the chief of these fraternities at their feasts and meetings, a noble structure, termed *St. Mary's Hall*, was raised in the most prosperous days of Coventry, the early part of the reign of Henry VI. The building is now used for purposes of civic dignity and festivity by the Mayor and Corporation.

St. Mary's Hall stands at a short distance on the south from the church of *St. Michael*. The exterior chiefly rests for attraction on a fine and spacious window, which occupies the larger portion of the front. The masonry of the upper divisions is extremely good; and the spaces between the mullions of the lower half are filled with rich and well finished niches. The building is entered by a porch, with an arched roofing. On the key-
stone

stone of the arch is a basso-relievo, "representing God on his heavenly throne, receiving St. Mary, who is sitting with her hands conjoined in the attitude of prayer.* The ribs of the arch and groins claim also our regard. On a projecting stone, whence the inward arch springs, is sculptured the Annunciation, now fast mouldering away; the figures of Mary and the Angel are still discernible, as also a flower-pot in the middle. The corresponding stone in the opposite abutment is wrought with unmeaning grotesque animals." Beyond the porch of entrance is a court-yard, on the right of which is seen the east side of the hall, and on the left a flight of stairs communicating with an open gallery that leads directly to the great room of entertainment. In the other buildings connected with the court we view, untouched by innovation, the arrangements of ages in which the whole business of a festival was conducted within the walls of one establishment. A door under the gallery opens to the kitchen, a spacious room replete with testimonials of the good cheer enjoyed by the associated gilds. On the north side are lofty arches, supported by octangular columns. "At each extremity of a large arch, over the coppers, is an angel holding a shield, containing a mark, or monogram, probably the builder's: the letters I. B. are quite distinct." On the sides towards the east and south are four chimneys, with communicating arches; and the window over each is in a style of architecture correspondent in excellence to that prevailing in the more important parts of the structure. The basement story, or cellar of the hall, is likewise fertile in proofs of the zeal and perseverance of the builders of the fifteenth century.

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* For the remarks and information contained in the passages between inverted commas, we are indebted to various letters communicated to the Gentleman's Magazine by the late Mr. Gough, Mr. John Carter, and a gentleman of Coventry, well known for his taste in antiquarian pursuits, under the signature S. These papers are collected in the Essay towards the History and Antiquities of Coventry, published in that city.

The great hall, where have sat, in dignified vassalry, so many historic characters, dear to the fancy from the gathering crust of antiquity that now obscures their features, is a noble room of entertainment, twenty-one yards long and ten yards broad. At the north is a splendid semicircular window, divided into nine parts, and painted with figures of several monarchs, and with armorial bearings and other ornaments. "The arms now left are those of Kings Henry VI. Edward III. the Emperor Constantine, King Etheldred, the Earl of Cornwall, the Duke of Normandy, the Kingdom of the East-Angles, the Kings of Man, the City of London, King Alfred, the Duke of Aquitaine, the City of York, and the Earl of Chester. Beneath are the figures of the kings, which, like the arms, are much mutilated, viz. William the Conqueror, King Richard, Henry V. Henry IV. the Emperor Constantine, King Arthur, Henry III. and Henry VI."

Three of the west windows, formerly ornamented with paints, among which were the figures of Humphrey, Earl of Stafford, and one of the John Mowbrays, Dukes of Norfolk, were reglazed within the last half century with plain glass. "The oriel window, on the same side (near which is a doorway into a room where the food unconsumed at public entertainments is deposited,) contained, formerly, in each pane, various sorts of birds, flying, pluming themselves, or picking insects, herbs, and grain:—in the middle row, in rondeaux, was painted a man, mowing, with the letters F. P. ; another ploughing ; and a third felling a tree : the two latter, with a part of the birds, are now gone." These emblems of rural industry were, perhaps, intended for allusions to the sway of civic magistracy over contiguous agricultural parishes, as attained by the grant of King Henry VI.

The windows on the east side are extremely fine, though now much damaged. The clusters of the columns on the piers of these windows, and of those on the west, are supported by religious
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and royal bustos. " In the two upper compartments of the first east window are two bishops, of whom Dugdale gives no account. They represent Thomas Arundel, Archbishop of Canterbury, (1396,) and Roger Walden, Bishop of London (1404.) The inscriptions beneath are quite perfect, and the figures nearly so; the faces, mitres, crosiers, and Gothic canopy, are delicate, and worthy attention. On the whole, they are the most perfect figures remaining. In the lower compartments are the portraits of William Beauchamp, fourth son of Thomas Beauchamp, third Earl of Warwick of that name, who died 1411; and his wife, Johanna, who was one of the daughters and co-heiress of Richard Fitz-Alan, Earl of Arundel, and died 1435. Beneath are their arms, with inscriptions, somewhat mutilated."

In the upper compartment of the second window is a figure in a red cowl and a yellow belt, " representing Richard Beauchamp, fifth Earl of Warwick of that name, and nephew to William before mentioned, who died 1439, with his arms and an inscription. The opposite compartment contains the remains of a figure, originally representing Isabella, his second wife, daughter and heiress of Thomas de Spenser, Duke of Gloucester; the upper part of the body is entirely gone; a bearded face is substituted; and the rest is mere patch-work. The scroll is almost destroyed, the letters *bella* only remaining; the other letters of her name are removed to another part." Below, are two figures, evidently representing mayors of Coventry. " The one is intended for William Whychireh, who was mayor in 1400. He is pictured with a forked beard, in a red cap and gown, the usual habiliments of the mayors. On a shield below him is a merchant's mark, encircled with a scroll bearing his name, but completely inverted." Beneath the second figure there is still remaining a merchant's mark on a shield, and a scroll; but the letters formerly placed on the scroll are entirely gone.

In the first upper compartment of the third window is the figure of " John Burghill, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield in 1399, with a shield under him, and the scroll inverted. Opposite is

the figure of Richard Scrope, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, 1396, afterwards translated to York." In the lower compartment of the same window are the representations of two mayors of Coventry. The inscription remains beneath only one, *Robertus Schypley*, who filled the office in 1402, and again in 1415. The four mayors, whose effigies thus embellish these windows, "were probably contributors and assistants in the erecting of St. Mary's Hall, and were certainly members of the gild." All the figures not arrayed in the usual garbs of ecclesiastical or magisterial dignity, are "dressed with the magnificence and luxury of the east, in long robes lined with ermine, and with large and angular hoods. These were the garments of peace, when they passed the festive day in honour of their fraternity."

Beneath the north window, and filling the space from the seat of continuation to its commencement, is a spread of tapestry, of the highest local interest, and which cannot fail to be accounted curious by the general examiner. The dimensions of this valuable performance are 30 feet in length and 10 feet in height. It is divided into two series, of three compartments each. "In the first compartment (beginning from the left hand) we behold Henry VI. with several of the principal nobility of his court. Henry is on his knees, in an ecstasy of devotion; before him is a covered table, whereon lie his crown and a missal. Behind Henry is Cardinal Beaufort, in the same attitude. The rest of the personages are standing, among whom we may readily point out the good Duke Humphrey, and the other names that aggrandised this monarch's high-born train. The dresses principally shew a vestment next the body, depending below the knees, and a robe with large sleeves worn over it. The shoes are long-quartered. The caps are small and flat, with their brims notched. The King, and the figure near him (Duke Humphrey) have in their caps large jewels, and their necks are decorated with gold chains. The cut of the hair of the several portraits is much varied; and the beards of Duke Humphrey and another principal character are left to flow to an unusual length. Each figure has
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his neck bare; and just above the collar of the under garment something like linen appears. From Henry's crown are diverging those bows, with globe and cross, which were first introduced in his reign. Taking in our eyes the whole group, we find the major part of them deeply impressed with the religious objects in their view; and it may seem rather remarkable that a very small part of their number appear without caps on their heads, which, however, demonstrates, that in the religious ceremonies of Henry's day such coverings were circumstances unheeded and indifferent.* In the back-ground are rich hangings, part of which being drawn aside near Henry, present a distant view of the country. In the compartment above are several of the apostles, as St. John the Baptist; St. Simon with a Saw; St. Andrew with a Cross; St. Bartholomew with a Dagger; St. Peter with Keys; St. Paul with a long Sword; St. Thomas with a Lance; and St. John the Evangelist, with a Lamb, Flag, and Book. Here are, likewise, two Christian Knights, one bearing a banner of the Cross, and the other a Sword and Anvil, emblematical of courage and hardihood.

"In the second compartment in the first tier is St. Mary in Glory, surrounded by angels, with the Moon under her feet, which is supported by an angel. On each side of St. Mary are the twelve Apostles in devotional positions. The back-ground reveals an expanse of rural prospect. In the compartment above, the scene is continued, where we see the Heavens opened and filled with Angels, arranged round the eternal Throne. Four of them bear the instruments of the Passion; and we have here to lament that the subject in the centre has been cut out, and a poor effort of the loom sewed in its place, the figure of Justice. We are yet able to discern the steps and sides of the throne, with the characters I. H. S. on the top of the work."

In the third compartment of the first tier is introduced Queen Margaret,

* It may be here observed that it was not considered indecorous to have the head covered during church service, so lately as the reign of Elizabeth.

Margaret, with a train composed of the chief ladies of her court. This division will be viewed with much interest, as little is satisfactorily known concerning the features of the able and heroic Margaret. That the tapestry is ordinarily faithful in conveying general character of countenance, may be argued from the similitude of the portrait there presented of Henry, to the best pictures of that sovereign. Margaret is here shewn as of a tall and commanding figure. The face is not conspicuous for beauty; but the expression is gracious and pleasing. A lady near the queen has been traditionally termed the Duchess of Buckingham; but the persons intended to be expressed by this part of the work, are, with the exception of Margaret, not now to be correctly ascertained. "The dresses of these ladies are a robe tight on the body, with wide flowing sleeves; their necks bare, and on those of the queen, the duchess, and three others, are gold chains. The covering to their heads is peculiarly graceful; the queen's more so, from the rich addition of her crown. Among the number are two nuns in the full habit of their order. In the back-ground are hangings; and, by the side of the queen, is a distant view of the country, with a variety of buildings. The tier above shews many female saints, who, we may conclude, with the corresponding male saints on the other side of the tapestry, were the heavenly patrons of the principal persons in the compartments below them." The colours of this curious piece of tapestry, though somewhat faded, are still various and beautiful; the general effect is highly impressive.

The interior of the hall was newly painted and ornamented in the year 1580.* The sides are enriched by inscriptions and heraldic devices; and are adorned by many portraits. On the east side are complimentary inscriptions, in Latin, accompanied by the arms of the Prince of Wales; the arms of North-
umberland;

* The ancient flooring, with an exception of the upper part on which the mayor's table was placed, was of brick, and remained until 1755, in which year it was boarded as seen at present.

umberland; and the Bear and Ragged Staff, the Crest of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, and of the Earl of Warwick.

On the west side are the king's arms, with a Latin inscription; and in other pannels are the following inscriptions in old English characters, accompanied by heraldic devices:

Since time that first this auncient towne Earle Leoffwine scoffed free,
At Godina's suite and merite straunge, or els it would not bee,
In Prince's grace by long descent as Old Recordes do date,
It stood maintein'd, until at length it grew to Citty's state;
Queene Isabell, sole heire of Fraunce, great favour hither cast,
And did procure large fraunchises by Charter ay to last;
We ow, therefore, in loialtie, our selves and all we have,
To Elizabeth, our Lady Liege, whom God in mercie save.

Edward, the floure of Chevalre, whilom the Blacke Prynce hyght,
Who prisoner tooke the French Kyng John, in Claime of Grandame's
ryght;

And slew the Kyng of Beame* in fielde, wherby the Ostrych Penn
He wan and ware on Crest here first; which poesie bare *Ich Dein*.
Amid thes martial frates of Armes, wherin he had no peere,
His Bountie eke to shew this Seate he chose and lov'd ful deere;
The former state hee gat confirm'd, and freedome did encrease;
A President of Knyghthood rare, as well for warre as peace.

When flourishing state 'gan once to fade and common wealth decay,
No wonder that in Cities great (for what endureth ay?)

John, late Duke of Northumberland, a Prince of high degree,

Did graunt faire Landes for Commons weale, as here in braue yow
see;

And Leicestre, mid thos great affaires wherto high place doth call,
His Father's worthy steppes hath trac'd, to prop that els might fall.

On forth in Prince and Countrie's Cause hold on this course your
dayes;

Such deedes do noble bloud commend, such win immortal Praise.

At

* Bohemia.

At the lower end of the hall is this inscription, engraved in old English characters on a brass plate :

Memorand. yt ye ryght highe and myghtie Prynce John late Duke of Northumblande deceased, for ye right hon'able zeale w'ch he bare to ye Citie of Cove'tr' and to ye pore i'habitaunce of ye same, by his dede inde'ted, dated ye XII of August, in ye thirde yere of ye raygne of o'r late Soverigne Lord Kynge Edwarde ye Sixte, dymised, graunted, and to ferme lette unto ye Maior, Bailiffes, and Comynaltie of ye said Cytie, all his manour of Chellesmore with ye Parke, and all ryghte me'bers and appurten'nce of ye same for ye terme of iiii^{xx}* and XIX yeres for ye uses, intents, and purposes folowing, that is, That they and theyr successours for ye relief of ye pore of ye said Cytie should yerely take to pasture in ye sard park ye nombr of iiii^{xx} kyen or heyefors and XXtie geldynges, of soche pore Inhabitaunce of ye said Cytie and suburbe, as shall not have ells where nighe ye said Cytie sufficiente pasture, painge wekely for every Cow or heifor 1*d.* and for every geldyng 11*d.*

Memorand. also, yt ye right honorable Robert Earle of Leycestr, sone to ye said late Duke of Northumberland, for ye like right honorable and earnest zeale, yt he had to ye advaancement and setting forwarde of ye said godly intente of his said Father, uppon his greate sute and request made to ye queenes Maiestie our Soverign Lady Queen Elizabeth, hath obtayned her Maiesties Letters patente, under her great seale of Engelande, whereby she graunted to the sayd Maior, Baylyffes, and Comynaltie, and their successours for ever, the sayde Manor and Parke of Chellesmore, and other the premysses in fee farme, for the ententes and uses abovesayde.

Memorand. also, yt the said Maior, Baylyffes, and Comynalltye, have Coven'ted and graunted to and with ye saide Earle, his Execntoures and Admynstratours, truly to observe and P'forme ye ententes, uses, and purposes before mencioned ;

* Viz. 80.

mentioned ; and also yt ye said p'misses nor any parte therof shall not be ouercharged, but allwayes kepte in suche plyght as ye saide no'ber of Cattell maye be at all tymes for ye sayde moneye, well and sufficiently kept, according to ye season of ye yeare for euer. As by the said Indenture, whereof the one part remaineth with the sayde Mayor, Baylyffes, and Comynalltye, and the other parte withe the saide Earle, bearinge date the fourth day of Aprell, in the tenth yere of the saide Queene Elizabeth appeareth, w'ch was in ye yere of grace 1568.

Beneath is a chair of state, rich in ornaments and tracery ; " among the embellishments of which is St. Mary, with the infant Jesus ; on one side, at the top, are carved the arms of Coventry ; opposite are two lions rampant, supporting a crown, or coronet ; but so much injured it is difficult to determine which. It has evidently been a double chair ; the parts where the other half fitted in, being very visible. It might, perhaps, have been made for the reception of Henry VI. and his queen, when they visited the gild ; or, probably, it was brought from the priory at the dissolution of monasteries, where it might have served as the bishop's throne, or the prior's seat."

At the same end of the hall is a gallery for minstrels, where are to be seen several suits of armour, formerly worn by the attendants of the mayor when he went in state to proclaim the great fair. This armour does not appear to be older than the seventeenth century. The paintings consist of portraits of Queen Elizabeth ; James I. ; Charles I. ; Sir Thomas White ; Norton ; Jesson ; and Davonport ; (benefactors to the city) Charles II. and James II. in the habit of the garter, by Sir Peter Lely. William and Mary (copies) in their coronation robes. Anne ; George I. George II. and Caroline, in their coronation robes. His present majesty, in the habit of the garter, by Lawrence. The latter picture was presented in the year 1792, by Lord Eardly and J. Wilmot, Esq. at that time representatives in Parliament for this city.

In the timber-work of the roof are introduced whole-length carvings

carvings of angels playing on musical instruments. "The instruments they bear are a crewth, trumpet, cittern, harp, and a bass-flute. From this musical selection it appears that our ancestors' minstrels were directed in their performances by parts in score."

Connected with the great hall are several smaller apartments, intended for civic business or recreation. One of these, termed the mayoress's parlour, has been repaired and *beautified* with a cruel indifference to its former venerable character. Each circumstance of antique decoration is effaced by a finishing of lath and plaister, and a Venetian window has been inserted, as if the designer were intent on exhibiting the superiority of the Gothic, or English school of builders, by the strongest effect of contrast. The old council chamber has fortunately escaped innovation. Here is seen the mayor's throne-like seat, and many other seats with stall embellishments. An elaborate carved entablature surrounds the chamber. On the hangings are the arms of Elizabeth. Among the carvings on the flat, pannelled, ceiling are representations of the Almighty on his throne; St. Mary; St. John; St. George; St. Margaret; and the symbols of the four evangelists. The treasury, in which are repositd the writings belonging to the corporation, adjoins this apartment. *

Such is the hall erected for the use of those ancient gilds in which some of the most illustrious personages of former days did not disdain to enrol their names. It is a building calculated to afford just cause of pride to the inhabitants of this ancient and well-chartered city; and as such unquestionably it is viewed by them; but we observe, with surprise and regret, that the corporation

* "In one of the drawing rooms," says Pennant, "was to be seen within these few years an antique equally delicate and curious, which Coventry alone had the happiness of possessing, known here by the name of the *Lady's Spoon*; but it was, doubtless, nothing more than the *Scaphium* of the ancients, described by Cœlius Rhodiginus and Pancirollus, *Rerum memorabilæ deperd.* See Dialogues on Decency.

ration are in the habit of occasionally letting the dignified structure to travelling companies of players, for the purpose of their stage representations. The visits of these "brief chronicles of the time" are not frequent; but the damage likely to accrue to the edifice from such a tenancy may be readily imagined.

The *County Hall*, erected in 1785, is a structure well adapted to the purposes of public business. The front is of stone, and has a rustic basement, with a range of columns supporting a pediment in the centre.

The *Mayor's Parlour* is a place of official resort, suited only to the limited notions of magisterial dignity, or accommodation, which prevailed in the early centuries of civic importance. The period at which it was first constructed does not appear. In 1775, it was in part taken down, and rebuilt, at the expence of nearly 600*l.* but the exterior of the building, and the internal arrangement, are at present equally unworthy of the magistracy of so respectable a city. To this parlour the corporation usually adjourn on the Friday subsequent to the time at which they hold the quarter sessions, and the adjournment is continued to the last Friday in each month until the ensuing general quarter sessions. The mayor, or one of the aldermen, likewise attends every day except Fridays and Sundays, to preside over public business.

The *Draper's Hall*, originally a dark and unpleasing edifice, was rebuilt in 1775, on a commodious and desirable plan. The front is a chaste elevation of stone, ornamented with Tuscan pilasters. This hall is 49 feet 6 inches in length, and 25 feet in width.

The *Barracks*, which occupy the site of the Bull Inn, an ancient hostel, already said to be connected with some interesting circumstances of local story, were erected in the year 1793. They are handsome as a building; and though not very extensive, are conveniently arranged for the intended purpose. The face towards the High Street is composed of stone.

Our ancestors made confinement itself a punishment of severity,
and

and an infliction dangerous to the prisoner's existence, even before the sentence of the law had pronounced the suspected to be guilty. Thus the ancient *Gaol* of Coventry was too limited in general scale, and its dreary separations seemed formed for nurseries of epidemy. The increase of population enforced the propriety of a larger building, and the extended philanthropy of the age readily suggested the propriety of a more decent disposal of the cells to which even the pests and outcasts of society must be consigned. A new gaol was erected in 1772, and it is a building well calculated, in size and disposal, to its melancholy object.

These (with the exception of the House of Industry, that will shortly meet attention) are the more important of the buildings now used for public purposes in Coventry. It remains to notice those fragments of decayed structures, which are not only interesting to the antiquary, but which involve in their story particulars connected with the annals of the city at large.

We have observed that the *Priory of Coventry* was founded by Leofric, Earl of Mercia, in the reign of King Edward the Confessor, and was for monks of the Benedictine order. Pope Alexander decreed that this monastery should not be subject to any diocesan bishop, nor to any judiciary power, however great the order or dignity, and that the monks should have liberty to elect an abbot from among themselves, or from any other congregation which they might deem desirable. But the title of abbot was of short duration, and the bishop soon became supreme head of the house. These events occurred during the episcopal sway of Robert de Limesie, who, by virtue of a bull from Pope Paschal I. removed the see from Chester to Coventry. The priors who succeeded remained, however, barons of Parliament, and the house gained a titular accession of honour in being denominated a mitred abbey. But the interested views of the bishop were soon displayed, to the deep injury of the foundation. Not content with divesting the monastery of much precious metal, he suffered the buildings to go to decay, and studiously kept the monks in
ignorance

ignorance and poverty, that they might sink with more entire humility the victims of his power. Several succeeding bishops pursued nearly the same course, and the foundation of Earl Leofric experienced, in the 12th century, a still more dangerous visitation. In the year 1141, Robert Marmion, who resided at Tamworth Castle, and who was engaged in violent enmity towards the Earl of Chester, possessed himself by force of this monastery, expelled the religious, and fortified the church, "making," says Dugdale, "deep trenches in the fields adjacent, which he so covered that they could not be seen, to the end that they might be an impediment to an enemy, whensoever any approach should be made; but it so hapned that as he sallyed out with some forces, upon the Earl of Chester's drawing near; and not remembring whereabouts those places had been digg'd, he fell with his horse into one of them himself; and by that means being surprized by a common souldier, had his head presently cut off." *

The monastery afterwards received much benefit from the patronage of the Earls of Chester; and the monks entered into a reciprocation of friendly services with those of Daventry, in Northamptonshire, equally to the advantage and credit of each brotherhood. But they were doomed to fresh troubles at no great distance of time. In the latter part of the reign of Henry II. Hugh Novant, a Norman, became bishop, and received, as had been usual with his predecessors, a grant of this priory; but, during the life of Henry, he did not attain possession. When Richard I. mounted the throne, the bishop obtained by purchase a confirmation of the former king's grant, and likewise procured a render of the house from the prior. He now disclosed his intentions without reserve, and prepared the monastic building for the reception of secular priests. Finding the monks tenacious of their rights, he proceeded to the spot with an armed force, and a contest ensued in which the bishop is said, by Bale, to have himself received a wound on the head, near the high altar, with the

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holy

holy cross. A statement to this effect was made to the Pope's legate, (William, Bishop of Ely) and he, regardless of the aggression, and tender only of the blood and interest of a dignified churchman, issued an order for the expulsion of the monks, and allowed secular canons to be placed in their habitation. An account of the transaction was necessarily forwarded by the more active party to the Pope, and his holiness properly forbore to make a reply until he received the counter-statement of the monks. But these oppressed devotees, expelled and fugitive, proffered no defence; and the bishop carried his wishes into execution. We are, however, informed by writers favourable to the preservation of monastic privileges that this encroaching prelate bitterly repented, on his death-bed, of the injury committed to the Benedictine monks. He died in Normandy, on his return from a long attendance at Rome, and implored, with much agony of conscience, the forgiveness of the Benedictines; and not only disposed of all his gold and jewels to religious and charitable purposes, but voluntarily consigned himself to purgatory. One Thomas, a monk of Coventry, was fortunately at Rome at this period, and he made such representations to the Pope that he obtained an order for the restitution of the monastery to its former state.

The monks, thus restored, advanced through succeeding reigns in affluence and esteem. So much were they favoured by Henry III. that they and their tenants (with some few exceptions) were by that monarch rendered free from all complaint or penalty on account of murder or robbery; and were, at the same time, put in possession of various minor privileges of exemption connected with pecuniary aids.

When a survey was taken of the annual revenues in 1534, by order of Henry VIII. they amounted to 731*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.* It is stated that several portions of this income were dedicated to charitable purposes, and the sum of 1*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* was appropriated to the celebration of the anniversary of Leofric, the founder, and the Countess Godiva. The last prior was Thomas Camswell, who, in
1538,

1538, surrendered the house to the commissioners appointed by the king, and received a pension of 133*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* In the 30th of Henry VIII. this noble pile was taken down by order of the king; and, a few years afterwards, the site, with divers messuages, gardens, and mills, was granted to John Combes, Gent. and Richard Stansfield, from whom it descended into the hands of John Hales, who left it to his nephew, of the same surname. The priory stood on the south side of the river Sherbourn. The larger part of its site is now converted into garden ground, and is in a great measure levelled. Some massy fragments of masonry, and several door-cases at the termination of the buildings which face the Sherbourn, are the only remains of the structure.

The *Cathedral* of Coventry occupied a place called Hill Close, on a slight declivity from the north side of St. Michael's and Trinity Church yards. This was, assuredly, a splendid edifice, and is said to have been built on the model of the cathedral at Lichfield. All who have written concerning the antient state of this city remark the grandeur of effect that must have been produced by the assemblage of fine churches, when the cathedral was standing. Three such structures, viewed from the area in which they were raised, without the slightest interruption, and quite free from the alloy of contiguous mean object, must, indeed, have presented a display rarely exceeded in any district famed for ecclesiastical splendour. With a wantonness of barbarity that cannot now be satisfactorily explained, King Henry caused this cathedral to be levelled with the ground when he destroyed the neighbouring monastery. Many unavailing efforts were used for its preservation, and the Bishop (Rowland Lee, a confidential adviser of the king in many circumstances) wrote to Cromwell, saying "He was moved so to do, forasmuch as it was his principal see and head church; and that the City of Coventry sued for the same; and so, earnestly entreated that the church might stand, and he keep his name, and the city have commodity and ease to their desire; or that by his lordship's goodness it might be brought to a

collegiate church, as Lichfield, and so his poor city have a perpetual comfort of the same."

The havoc performed by the agents of Henry was carried on with careful industry; and one small fragment, now worked into a dwelling, alone remains of the fair and costly building. At the western entrance of the close on which the cathedral stood, there was left a large arch, but this fell to the ground about a century back. "Among the western ruins of the structure the butchers were accustomed to feed their animals, for the supply of the public market. In 1649, however, the city granted this part of the building to John Bryan, vicar of Trinity Church, who built a house over against one of the steeples of the western front of the cathedral, near or over which passed the cross aisles of the original church. He, also, erected some dwelling houses on the foundations of the two steeples, which were on both sides the entrance into the priory from the Butcher Row; cleared the ground of the ruins, and converted it into a garden. About the same period, also, another part of the ruins was levelled, in the removal of which was discovered a great abundance of carved and gilt stones. Of this was first framed a bowling-alley, and afterwards a garden. The east end of the cathedral had been previously converted into gardens and orchards, by Mr. Burton and Mr. Brumwell; the eastern wall of whose garden stands, at this hour, on the foundation of the original chancel."*

A part of the site was again consecrated, in the year 1776, and is at present used as a burial place for Trinity parish. In April 1781, a stone coffin was discovered, containing two bodies, one lying on the right arm of the other.

The *Episcopal Palace* stood at the north-east corner of St. Michael's church yard. Some faint traces of the building are still to be discovered.

The *Grey Friars*, or *Friars Minors*, are believed to have settled

* MS. copied in the Coll. towards Hist. of Coventry

settled in Coventry about the year 1234, and had, at first, only an oratory, which was covered with shingles delivered for that purpose from the woods of Kenilworth, by order of King Henry III. These friars were most rigid and austere in manners, and disclaimed all endowment of lands; voluntarily living on charity for the sake of mortification. But they were especially fortunate in procuring liberal alms; and the contributions of the devout enabled them to raise a monastery and church, more splendid than would seem suited to the wishes of such humble religionists, on the south side of the city.

These buildings were erected on land bestowed on the friars by Ranulph, the last of that name, Earl of Chester. Of the habitable parts of the monastery not any traces now remain. The church appears to have been built in the reign of Edward III. and the Prince of Wales (Edward the Black Prince, who honoured this brotherhood by styling himself their patron) permitted the friars, by charter, "to take so much stone out of his quarry, in the park of Chylesmore, as they should have occasion to use about their buildings and walls." * The family of Hastings are supposed to have contributed largely to the expense of raising the structure, and it is said by Dugdale that "divers of them lay buried in a chappell of the same church, called Hastings chappell, and some in the very habite of Friars Mipors, so great an esteem had they of this order." The remains of the church consist of a fine steeple, with a spire springing from an octagon. The site of other parts of the building, and the adjacent cemetery, are now used as garden ground, and the lower part of the tower is converted into a tool-house. This spire, which is lofty and well-proportioned, adds much to the imposing effect of the city in regard to public structures; and though, as a desecrated monument, it inspires melancholy feelings on close inspection, it is yet an object of great and striking ornament.

The Grey Friars appear to have been an active and ingenious

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class

Dugdale, p. 182.

class of mendicants. Constrained to exercise talent, in order to render themselves conspicuously deserving of patronage, they became celebrated for their annual exhibition of the mysteries which were termed *Corpus Christi* Plays, from the day on which they were performed. It will be recollected that the mysteries, or miracle-plays, of the monks, were representations of story in Holy Writ, or of the strange circumstances detailed in saintly legend. The Friars Minors seated in Coventry are said to have presented their pageants from high and portable theatres, placed in the most open and advantageous parts of the city. The subject was announced in a prologue by a person termed *Vexillator*, who probably displayed a flag descriptive of the subject of the ensuing drama. The notoriety of these representations is evident from Dugdale, who says "I have been told by some old people, in their younger years eye-witnesses of these pageants so acted, that the yearly confluence of people to see that show was extraordinary great, and yielded no small advantage to this city." *

The Friars Minors were screened by their poverty from the first rapacious step of Henry towards a dissolution of religious houses, but they were necessarily included in the last decisive act of severity: and they deemed it expedient to subscribe to their own dissolution, and to affix to the instrument of surrender the common seal of their house. A copy of this instrument is preserved

* Antiq. of War, p. 183.—Dugdale says that a MS. containing the plays performed by the Franciscans of this city was to be seen in the Cottonian Library, *sub. effig. Vesp. D. 9*, and mentions the title as *Ludus Coventrie*; but it is observed in the collection towards a History of Coventry, that, "in the printed catalogue of that library, p. 113, the MS. is named thus:—*Dramata Sacra*, &c.;— Sacred Representations, in which are exhibited the Histories of the Old and New Testament, the persons therein mentioned being brought upon the stage, whom the poet according to his fancy introduces talking to each other. They seem to have been formerly represented before the people by the mendicant friars, either for their instruction or entertainment."—It is well known that such exhibitions were not peculiar to the city of Coventry.

preserved in Dugdale, from which it appears to have been couched in curious terms of constrained humility and self-condemnation. The site of their house was granted by Henry VIII. to the mayor, bailiffs, and commonalty of this city.

The *White Friars*, or *Carmelites*, another order of mendicants, first settled in Coventry about the year 1342, the 16th of Edward III. A house for their reception was built by Sir John Poultney, four times Lord Mayor of London, whose arms in Dugdale's time were still extant over the gates. Although these friars, like the Franciscans, disclaimed the pomp and vanity of landed endowment, they never closed their hands when alms were offered, or declined a charitable legacy, however large the amount. They partook plentifully of both; and, among the bequests with which they were favoured, Lord Basset of Drayton left them, in 1383, the great sum for that period of three hundred pounds. In 1413, Henry V. permitted, by licence, William Botener to give these friars a piece of ground 141 feet in length, and 45 feet in breadth, for the purpose of enlarging their residence. In 1506, Sir Thomas Poultney, lineal heir to the founder of the monastery, directed his body to be buried in the chancel of the White Friars' church; and appointed that, at his funeral, twenty-four torches, each having his arms upon it, should be borne by twenty-four poor men, each of whom should wear a gown with a leopard's head, behind and before.

When the survey was taken in 1534, it appeared that the actual revenue of the Carmelites (arising from "certain burgages in Coventry") was only 3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* and they stated that the oblations received amounted, on an average, to no more than 5*l.* 18*s.* *per ann.* From this income several sums were disbursed for specified purposes, so that the clear yearly value was but 7*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.* They shared the general fate of monastic institutions in 1538, and surrendered their house by an instrument dated the 30th of October. They were too poor to expect pensions, and were turned helpless on society, perhaps even without the pity of those who expelled them.

The monastery, (with its *possessions*, subject to the annual payment of twenty shillings to Merynton's chantry in St. Michael's church) was granted, in 1544, by the King's Letters Patent, to Sir Ralph Sadler and his heirs, in burgage. Of Sir Ralph the property was purchased by John Hales, Esq. * who converted the building into a residence, and here had the honour of entertaining Queen Elizabeth. By will Mr. Hales directed that the mansion should be sold, and mentions it by the name of *Hales's Place*. But it would appear that his wish did not meet with attention, as John Hales, descended from Christopher, his elder brother, enjoyed the estate, and bequeathed it to his son Christopher, who died a bachelor about the year 1717. This Sir Christopher much embarrassed his affairs by election speculations at Coventry, and Sir Edward Hales, procured an Act of Parliament, after his brother's decease, for the sale of this property, in order to discharge Sir Christopher's debts. John, Duke of Montague, became the purchaser, and the mansion afterwards passed to the Rev. Mr. Smith of Aspley, Bedfordshire, who, in 1801, sold it to the directors of the poor of Coventry. The building is now used as a house of industry for the united parishes of St. Michael and the Holy Trinity.

The present fabric combines parts of the ancient monastery, and of the domestic structure raised by the Hales family; to which have been made considerable additions by the directors of the poor. The monastic edifice appears to have been extensive and well-arranged. The marks of an original quadrangular construction seem quite evident. The cloister that ranged along one side is in high preservation, and is now used as an eating
room

* This is the person whom Leland mentions as Hales with the club foot. Dugdale says "his lameness and deformity were occasioned (as I have heard) by a wound with a dagger, that casually, in running, fell forth of the sheath into the dirt, so that, as he stepped forward, the sole of his foot hit upon the point thereof." He was buried in St. Peter's church, Broad Street, Long-street. His epitaph there is copied in Stow's Survey.



for the Beauties of England & Wales.

WHITE FRIARS MONASTERY, Coventry.

London, Published by Thomas Stod & Charles Phillips, Septemher 1801.

Engraved by J. Burre, from a Drawing by T. White.



room for the poor. The ceiling is of wrought stone, and the ancient form of the Gothic openings, which have double frames of stone-work, is entirely retained, though the apertures are now filled with glass. On the opposite side may be traced the segments of arches, probably connected with a second cloister of the quadrangle, which was destroyed when the building was first rendered of a private domestic character. The dormitory of the friars is also highly preserved, and is now stocked with beds for the use of the present mendicant inhabitants. In one division are the remains of an ancient staircase of stone, which evidently led from the dormitory to the church *, and was perhaps used by the friars generally in inclement seasons, or was intended for the accommodation of the sick.

The vestiges of the mansion constructed by the Hales family are numerous. Various panellled rooms here occur; and the chief entrance is yet standing, in the centre of a range of stone wall.

The building added for the accommodation of the poor is of brick, three stories high, and covered with slate. It is ninety-three feet in length, and twenty-two feet in breadth; substantial, commodious, and well-adapted. The regulations of this establishment reflect high credit on the city. The affairs of the house are superintended by eighteen directors, named by the conjoined parishes, ten from St. Michael's; and eight from Trinity. They have a common seal, and hold weekly meetings for the dispatch of ordinary business, and stated general meetings for especial purposes. The weak and aged here find a peaceable asylum. Those of the adult who are able, work in the weaving of calicoes; and the younger are employed in the throwing of silk (the preparing of the article for the use of ribbon weavers.)

Cleanliness

* Of this church not any fragment is now to be seen. It adjoined the city wall, without Newgate, and was standing at the death of John Hales (1572) as appears by an inquisition then taken; but was shortly after pulled down; and Mr. Edward Boughton, obtaining the materials, built with them the house at *Cawston*, in which his branch of the Boughton family resided.

Cleanliness and good order are conspicuous in every part of the institution. Distinct from the places of usual residence is a brick building, with windows rendered obscure by wooden screens, for the reception of such females as are admitted for the united purposes of childbed and reformation. There are also cells of solitary confinement for the last stages of vice and turbulence; but in this well ordered house these dismal recesses appear to be little used. The young are instructed in the rudiments of salutary learning, partly by daily tuition, and more generally by a Sunday school instituted within the walls. A decent room is furnished as a chapel for such of the aged as may be too infirm to attend parochial service.

This beneficial institution has been established about ten years. The number in the house was, at the time of our examination, (December, 1813,) 190; but in less favourable periods it has amounted to 300.

It has been already said that the Earls of Chester raised a castle within the manor of CHEYLESMORE, on the south side of the city. That the circuit of the outer ward of this castle was of great extent is evident from the charter made by Hugh, Earl of Chester, to the monks of Coventry, in the reign of Henry II. for, in pointing out the boundaries, and dividing his own part from the prior's, the Earl traces his ground from St. Michael's church-yard nearly to "the *Broad Gate*" of his castle. The spot on which this broad gate stood is sufficiently known, as it still retains that name; and its situation proves the large extent northwards of the castle lines. According to a MS. copied in the collections towards a History of Coventry, "the monks, in 1278, obtained a licence from Edward I. and converted the land round Cheylesmore into a park, which, in the measure of those days, contained 436 acres of waste lands and woods." On the death of John Eltham, King Edward III. conferred upon his son, the Black Prince, the dukedom of Cornwall; and, as a part of the estate necessary to the support of that fresh title, he bestowed the reversion of the manor of Cheylesmore after the death of
Isabel,

Isabel, the queen mother. The manor was thus settled on the successive eldest sons of the reigning monarch. By the third Edward many honorary privileges were granted to Cheylesmore, and he appears to have been sedulous to dignify a spot appertaining to the heir of the Crown. Among these privileges were a court-leet, with power to give judgment in such matters as were usually determined before the magistrates for the county of Warwick; and a gaol for felons and other transgressors. In the 21st of this king, one William le Galeys had permission to found here a chantry, consisting of three priests, and to build a chapel in honour of the Virgin Mary, with a convenient mansion for the ecclesiastics. Among the persons for whose *good estate* the priests were to perform daily service was Queen Isabel; but that princess must have shuddered to think of past days when she found that one of the *souls* recommended to the pious care of the same priests, was that of her murdered husband.

In the reign of Edward III. the park of Cheylesmore appears to have been well-wooded, and stocked with deer. About the year 1388, some land was separated from the great park, and termed the little park. "The larger district was now leased to several inhabitants of Coventry, to create a tenantry to Cheylesmore." *

In the year 1524, Henry VIII. granted a lease for twenty-one years, of the manor, and the herbage of the park, to the prior of Ulverscroft, in Leicestershire, at the rent of 13*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.* King Edward VI. in 1549, bestowed Cheylesmore, with the park, on John Duke of Northumberland, and his heirs, as part of the possessions annexed to the Duchy of Cornwall. This duke, on the 12th of August following, granted a lease of the estate for 99 years to the mayor, bailiffs, &c. of Coventry, subject to the charitable conditions already specified in our copy of the inscription

* MS. copied in Coll. for Hist. of Coventry. In another MS. copied in the same collection, is the following passage:—"In 1499, a dooke stool was made upon Cheylesmore Green, to punish scolders and chiders, as ye law wylls."

tion on the brass plate in St. Mary's Hall. After the attainder of the Duke of Northumberland, in 1553, the corporation obtained, through the mediation of the Earl of Leicester, a grant from Queen Elizabeth to hold the premises for ever in fee ferme, the reserved rent being 9*l. per ann.* on which occasion they covenanted to observe the well-meant intentions of the duke, in regard to the poor inhabitants. The park of Cheylesmore, which is about three miles in circumference, was inherited by his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, as Duke of Cornwall; but, within these few years, it was sold, under the authority of Parliament, for the redemption of the land-tax, to the Marquis of Hertford, and is now enclosed. After the ruin of the castle belonging to the Earls of Chester, a manor house was constructed in the same situation, which is mentioned in a grant made to the monks of Coventry by Roger de Montalt, and Cecily his wife, in the 31th of Henry III. Of this building there chiefly remain some pieces of stone-work, connected with mean tenements raised on the site, which indicate the original massy character of the structure.

Spon Hospital was erected in the suburbs of the city on the western side, and was founded by Hugh, Earl of Chester, in the reign of Henry II. for the reception of lepers. Some remains of the chapel and gateway are still to be seen, now converted into ordinary habitations.

The Cross in Coventry was a fabric of extensive celebrity, though not of a very ancient date. It stood near the centre of the present corn-market, if such a term must be bestowed on the area where the farmers assemble to sell the produce of their lands by sample. A cross on this spot was first erected in 1423, (the second of Henry VI.) but a fresh and more costly pile was substituted in the sixteenth century, in consequence of a bequest for that purpose from Sir William Hollies, sometime Lord Mayor of London, and son to Thomas Holleys, of Stoke, near Coventry. This ornamental fabric was divided into three stories, and was fifty seven feet in height, having eighteen niches, adorned with
statues,

statues, some of which were brought from the White Friars. In the year 1669, it was thoroughly repaired, at a considerable expense; but the bad taste of that period induced those at the charge of reparation to disfigure the masonry with much paint and gold leaf. From this time the building experienced entire neglect, and gradually fell into ruin. In the year 1771, the last fragments were wholly taken away.

The Walls, which formerly added so much to the importance of this city, were begun in 1355, by virtue of the licence granted by Edward III. twenty-seven years before. The first stone was laid at the place called New Gate, near the White Friars. In the great charge of this undertaking the citizens were assisted by the following duties, which they had permission to levy for the term of five years: for every ton of wine sold in the town, two shillings; for every quarter of malt fourpence; for every ox fourpence; for every hog and calf one penny; and for every sheep one farthing. The publicans, however, complained of that part of the duties which affected their commodities, and were exonerated before the expiration of the term. A regular tax, was, likewise levied on all the inhabitants, with an exception of the clergy. The whole of the mural embattlements were not completed in less than forty years.

The walls were three miles in circumference, and in each division they were nine feet in thickness. At different points, skilfully suited to the purpose of defence, were thirty-two towers, and the twelve following gates:—New-Gate; Gosford; Bastill (or Mill Lane;) Priory; Cook Street; Bishop; Well Street; Hill Street; Spon; Grey Friars; Cheylesmore; and Little Park Street. The walls were kept in good repair for nearly three centuries, and the security which they afforded to the city has been rendered evident by our notice of the confident readiness with which access was denied to Edward IV. and Charles I. when those monarchs appeared in arms before the gates. The active hostility of the citizens during the Cromwellian war, convinced the second Charles of the propriety of throwing open the
town.

town. In their avowals of joy at the restoration it is probable that the inhabitants were sincere; and the present which they offered to the new king was well calculated to smooth the way for reconciliation; but a policy, which can scarcely be blamed in the hour of cool retrospection, induced Charles to persist in his purpose; and on July 22, 1662, the Earl of Northampton, accompanied by many of the neighbouring gentry, and attended by the county troops, made the first breach in the walls. The work of demolition employed nearly 500 men for three weeks and three days; at the end of which time the reduction was complete. But, although the walls and towers were levelled, most of the gates were left untouched, and several have been taken down within the last half century. Traces of the wall may yet be discovered in several districts; and three of the gates (Bastill, Priory, and Cook Street) are still remaining; but these were gates of a subordinate character, and have suffered much from time and indifference.

The sums bequeathed to the city for charitable purposes are numerous; and for particulars concerning many of them we beg to refer the reader to a work, intituled "An Account of the several Loans, Benefactions, and Charities belonging to the City of Coventry."—The *Charities connected with appropriate buildings* demand notice.

Bablake Hospital is situate behind St. John's Church, and is an antient and decaying structure, nearly encompassing a small court. A portion of the edifice is occupied by almshouses, founded in 1506, by Thomas Bond, a wealthy trader of Coventry, who had been mayor of the city. This institution was intended for ten poor men and one poor woman, with a priest to pray for the souls of the founder, his father, grandfather, and all Christian souls. The dissolution of gilds and chantries, in 1547, included this foundation; but, in the ensuing year, the possessions were granted by Edward VI. to the bailiffs and commonalty of the city, on their paying an acknowledgment of *1d. per annum*.—An inscription on the walls narrates the circumstances of foundation,

dation, and states that John, the son of the founder, continued to act according to his father's will ; but that Thomas, the grandson, claimed the lands given in endowment as his own ; " where-upon the city sued him in Chancery, and had a decree against him." The lands were then valued at 20*l. per annum*. In the 7th of James I. " these lands were questioned as concealed from the crown, and the city was forced to purchase them again of the king, at their very great cost and expence." The inscription proceeds to state that " Mr. Sim. Norton, Draper, Mayor, and Alderman of this City, A. D. 1641, gave 300 marks towards the maintenance of one man and one boy in this hospital." The number of alms-men is, at this time, forty-two, each of whom receives 4*s.* a week, with a gown, a hat, and several other benefits. Those who choose to reside in the hospital are provided with a lodging ; and a nurse and inferior servant attend and cook their provisions for them in a general kitchen.

The student of human character would not look in this receptacle of penury for such deep purposes of ambitious enterprize as scruple not to use the bowl or dagger ; but the following anecdote, related by Dr. Thomas, proves that a dangerous love of pre-eminence is confined to no soil :—" About the year 1619, John Johnson, one of the alms-men of this hospital, poisoned several of his brethren with ratsbane, as it was after his death discovered. His crime was supposed to originate in his ambition of becoming the senior of the house ! Five persons died, and three others were much affected. Johnson being suspected and questioned, poisoned himself."

The remainder of the building is dedicated to a charity of the most desirable character. In the year 1560, an institution was here founded by the City, for the maintenance and instruction of poor boys. In this laudable purpose the patrons were aided by various contributions ; and, in the year 1566, a benefactor of an important description occurred. This was Mr. Thomas Wheatley, an ironmonger and cardmaker of Coventry, whose liberality is
said

said to have been stimulated in the following manner :—" In the course of traffic he sent a servant into Spain to buy some barrels of steel gads, which he did, as he thought, in open fair; but, when they were opened, they were found to be either cochineal or ingots of silver. The servant not knowing of whom he bought them, Mr. Wheatley kept them by him for a considerable time, supposing that some enquiry would take place; but no enquiry being ever made, he gave the profits of these articles, as well as the greatest part of his fortune, to charitable purposes." Other benefactions have also been received; and the present number of boys is twenty-four, who are clothed, maintained, and instructed in useful knowledge; and, at a proper age, are provided with a new suit of clothes, and two pounds for an apprentice fee.

Grey Friar's Hospital is situate near the ruins of the church formerly belonging to the Grey Friars, and acquires its usual appellation merely from that circumstance of site. This hospital was founded in 1529, by Mr. William Ford of Coventry, and was afterwards improved by several persons connected with him in friendship, and by others associated only in benevolence of intention. The foundation provided originally for the lodging and assistance of five men and one woman, each of whom received fivepence a week; but the various subsequent benefactions have caused the number of pensioners to be augmented to eighteen poor women, besides a nurse, and two aged men: each receives 2s. 6d. per week; 34 cwt. of coals annually; and a blue gown once in three years.

The building is a curious and attractive specimen of the style which obtained towards the middle of the sixteenth century. The front is adorned with a plentiful, yet chaste, variety of ornaments carved in wood; and here is seen a slight mixture of the English or Gothic, a lingering taste for its canopies and tracery work, with a superior portion of the more pure domestic manner which succeeded. The door of the principal entrance conducts to a narrow court, lined on each side with habitations
for

for the hospitallers, conspicuous in neat propriety of disposal. The whole is untouched by innovation, and in an excellent state of repair.

The *Free-School* is indebted for foundation to John Hales, whose residence at the White Friars has been mentioned. This person, in consequence of employments under the notice of King Henry VIII. had opportunities of making advantageous purchases among the multitude of monastic possessions exposed to sale at the dissolution. He had not any family, and appears to have been anxious to confer benefits on the city of Coventry. But a feeling of animosity towards him prevailed among the inhabitants, and his chief effort at service met with a spirit of opposition detrimental to the interest of the place. It was his wish to institute a free-school in the city, and he commenced this establishment in the church of the White Friars, attached to his newly-constructed mansion. But the industrious citizens found that though he had bought the land formerly belonging to the Franciscans, the building of the church was not included in the deed of conveyance. They then purchased the church themselves, and ejected his scholars.

Among the numerous purchases lately made by Mr. Hales, were the buildings, together with the lands and other possessions, of *St. John's Hospital*. This edifice stood at the lower end of Cross-Cheaping, and was founded, early in the reign of Henry II. by Laurence, Prior of Coventry and his monastery, at the request of Edmund, then archdeacon of Coventry, (who was at the expense of erecting the structure,) for the reception of the sick and needy. To this place Mr. Hales removed his scholars; and on the front of the building he caused to be made the following inscription:

Schola Regis Henrici Octavi, a Johanne Hales,
Armigero, fundata, in qua bonis literis imbuantur
Pueri, usque ad consummationem sæculi, in
Christi gloriam, & Ecclesiæ ædificationem.

But the citizens still pursued him with rancour; and, during his absence from England, in the reign of Edward VI. complaints were made to the lord chancellor that King Henry VIII. had granted to Mr. Hales certain property for the foundation of a school, which he unjustly detained to his own use. A similar complaint was preferred to Queen Elizabeth, by the recorder, in his speech of reception when her majesty visited this city in 1565. Elizabeth immediately ordered Sir William Cecil, one of her principal secretaries of state, to investigate the matter: but, on a careful examination of Mr. Hales's patent, there was not found any mention of such an intended act of regal bounty. This continued disagreement between Mr. Hales and the citizens was the more to be regretted, as it is believed that he had long entertained a wish to found a College in Coventry similar to those of Westminster and Eton.

Though he curtailed his purpose, he suffered not resentment to operate to the entire prejudice of the innocent; but, by his will, directed his executors to convey to the corporation of Coventry the site of St. John's Hospital, with lands and messuages lately belonging to the dissolved priories of this city and of Kenilworth, and some other property, in order that, out of the rents accruing, the sum of 20*l.* should be annually paid to a schoolmaster to teach grammar; the sum of 10*l.* to an usher; and of 2*l.* 12*s.* to a music master, who was three times a week to instruct such scholars as might be desirous of learning to sing.

For many years this school flourished with conspicuous vigour, and it has produced some eminent men, among whom must be named Sir William Dugdale; but latterly, owing, as we believe, to a dispute between the two masters, the salaries bequeathed by Mr. Hales have sunk, in common with many other well-intended scholastic legacies, almost to sinecure possessions. The present school-room is formed from a portion of the ancient chapel of St. John's Hospital; and the school-forms are the original seats in the choir of the White Friars' Church. The part towards the street was taken down in 1794, and a new

front erected, in the pointed style. On digging the foundation some fragments of a building, evidently more ancient than the hospital, were discovered much beneath the surface. These were probably the relics of a structure destroyed during the ravages of the Danes. The good taste of some of the more liberal of the inhabitants has caused the plinth, and part of the shaft, of a pillar, to be preserved in a court-yard adjoining the school.

Coventry acquired affluence and reputation at a comparatively early period, from the success with which it cultivated *manufactures*. The cloth, caps, and bonnets, made in this city, became articles of important traffic at the commencement of the fifteenth century; and woollen and broad cloths remained the staple manufacture until the war of 1694, between England and France, when the Turkey trade was destroyed. In the early part of the sixteenth century Coventry became famous for a manufacture of blue* thread, but the art was lost before the year 1581. The manufacture of striped and mixed tammies, and of camblets, shalloons, and calimancoes, flourished through the greater part of the eighteenth century, but is now almost entirely lost. The principal manufactures at present are those of ribbons and watches.

The manufacture of ribbons was introduced about a century back, and, for the first thirty years, was confined to the hands of a few. It has since spread to a great extent, and is now supposed to afford employment to 16,000 persons in the city and neighbouring towns and villages.† An extensive trade, in fa-

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vourable

* "He is true as Coventry blue," is mentioned by Fuller as a usual saying, expressive of firmness of faith and principle.

Drayton, in his *Song of Dowsabell*, thus describes an Arden shepherd:

His Aule and Lingell in a Thong,
His Tar-boxe on his broad belt hong,
His Breech of Coyntrie blew.

† It is observed in the *Collections towards a History of Coventry*, that, in the year 1803, there were 2819 silk and ribbon looms in this city.

vousable periods, has been carried on with foreign countries : exportation has, indeed, been always regarded as the most important object of the manufacturers. Some of the principal cultivators of the ribbon trade have also houses in London ; but, although this circumstance may aid the general purposes of commerce, it is evidently detrimental in many respects to the interests of Coventry. The residence of the affluent, independent of other advantages, might lead to local improvements; and the poor's rates must unquestionably feel ill effects from the labourer pursuing his toil where the capitalist does not fix his habitation.

The manufacture of watches was not pursued to any great extent in Coventry till within the last thirty years. But the trade has lately experienced so considerable an increase, that it appears likely more watches are now made in this city than in the metropolis.

The Oxford and Coventry Canals, the head of which is near Bishop Street, afford great facilities to traffic, and tend much to the commercial prosperity of the place. The great road from London to Liverpool passes through this city ; the benefits accruing from which are likewise considerable and evident. With such advantages of manufacture and interchange, although the city may not appear so captivating to the traveller as when enriched by all its structures, fresh in aspect and flourishing in character, it still may with confidence rely on its own efforts for attaining an intrinsic superiority to the proud height which it gained in the days of the third Edward and the sixth Henry.

The City of Coventry is divided into ten wards, and is internally governed by a mayor, ten aldermen, and twenty common-council. The mayor and aldermen are justices of the peace for the city and county. It appears that the office of bailiff of this city was first recognised by a patent granted in the year 1305. King Edward III. in 1344, constituted within the city a body corporate, consisting of a mayor and two bailiffs, whom the inhabitants were to choose annually from among themselves.—

Richard

Richard II. in 1377, confirmed all previous charters, and appointed justices of the peace for Coventry. Towards the latter part of his reign the same king constituted the mayor, recorder, and four of the principal inhabitants, justices of the peace, and separated them entirely from the magistrates of the county of Warwick. The liberal grant from King Henry VI. has already been noticed; and from this grant emanates the chief present importance of the magistracy of the city. When King James I. renewed the charter of Coventry, he directed that "the house in which the magistrates assembled for the discussion of city affairs, should be called the Council-house, and the members the council of the city." He likewise decreed that there should "be a second council, consisting of twenty-five persons, to be called the common-council of the said city, who should prepare all public business for the inspection of the mayor and superior council." In 1683, the city charter was renewed, with various alterations, by Charles II.

There are four annual *Fairs*, at which much business is transacted. The most important of these was granted by Henry III. and, according to the charter, is permitted to continue eight days. There is a procession connected with this fair, which has attracted much notice, and is allusive to the fantastical story of the Lady Godiva. "To this day," says Pennant, "the regard of Godiva towards this city is remembered by a procession, on the Friday in Trinity week; and a charming fair one still graces the procession, not literally like the good countess with her own dishevelled hair, &c. but in linen, closely fitted to her limbs, and of a colour emulating their complexion." The figure in procession which Mr. Pennant thus notices cannot be adduced in proof of the probable veracity of the strange tale which we have already discarded as unworthy of serious attention, for it is believed to have been first used in the reign of Charles II. a period favourable to so extravagant an exhibition. But, previous to that reign, the mayor was accustomed to go in procession to proclaim the fair, attended by a number of guards in armour.

This *Show* was a matter of annual occurrence till within the last few years, but is now only occasionally presented. The mode of the ceremony is curious, and we insert an account of the procession which accompanied the mayor and charter officers, when the chief magistrate proceeded to proclaim the fair, on the 2d of June, 1809, after attending divine service at Trinity Church :

Grand Procession of the Show Fair.

Twelve Guards, two and two.

Saint George in Armour.

Two Bugle Horns.

City Streamer.

Two City Followers.

City Streamer.

Grand Band of Music, belonging to the 14th Light Dragoons.

High Constable.

LADY GODIVA.*

City Cryer and Beadle on each side.

Mayor's

* While mentioning the representative of this lady it may be necessary to advert to the legend concerning *Peeping Tom*, a personage of almost equal notoriety with the Countess. It is probable that this auxiliary to the drama was introduced as a *droll*, by the wits in the reign of Charles.—Dugdale, who seems to have been fond of Lady Godiva's legend, and who is especially circumstantial in his notice of it, makes no mention of this inquisitive person. A figure commemorative of the peeper has long been preserved in Coventry, and is now inserted in the niche of a new house communicating with the High Street. "On a minute examination of this figure," says the Coventry Collection, "it is found to be a very ancient full-length oak statue of a man in armour, with an helmet on his head, greaves on his legs, and sandals on his feet: to favour the posture of his leaning out of window the arms have been cut off at the elbows. From the attitude in which it was originally carved, there is reason to believe that it was either intended for Mars, the fabulous god of war, or some other warlike chieftain. This grotesque representation is newly dressed on each recurrence of the processional festival, but with strict adherence to the fashion of the previous garb; and the long peruke and neck-cloth seem to shew that the dress was first bestowed in the time of Charles II."

- Mayor's Cryer.
 City Bailiffs.
 City Maces.
 Sword and Mace.
 Mayor's Followers.
 The Right Worshipful the Mayor.
 Aldermen.
 Sheriff's Followers.
 Sheriffs.
 Common Council.
 Chamberlains and Followers.
 Wardens and Followers.
 Grand Band of Music
 Belonging to the 1st Regiment of Warwickshire Local Militia.
 Companies.
 Mercers.—Streamer, Master, and Follower.
 Drapers.—Streamer, Master, and Followers.
 Clothiers.—Streamer, Master, and Follower.
 Four Drums and Fifes.
 Blacksmiths.—Streamer, Master, and Follower.
 Taylors.—Streamer, Master, and Follower.
 Cappers.—Streamer, Master, and Follower.
 Butchers.—Streamer, Master, and Followers.
 Grand Band of Music belonging to the Stoneleigh Volunteers.
 Pellmongers.—Streamer, Master, and Followers.
 Carpenters.—Streamer, Master, and Follower.
 Cordwainers.—Streamer, Master, and Follower.
 Four Drums and Fifes.
 Bakers.—Streamer, Master, and Follower.
 Weavers.—Streamer, Master, and Follower.
 Silk-Weavers.—Streamer, Master, and Follower.
 Grand Band of Music.
 Woolcombers.—Streamer, Master, and Follower.
 Shepherd and Shepherdess, with a Dog, Lamb, &c.
 Jason, with a Golden Fleece and Drawn Sword.
 Five Wool Sorters.
 Bishop Blaze, and Woolcombers, in their respective uniforms.
 Four Drums and Fifes.

Besides the principal fairs, there is a Wake held in Sponstreet, (near St. John's Church,) on the Sunday and two following days after St. John's Day. This was evidently founded in those early ages in which festivity was mixed with saintly-ceremonials.

There are certain minor circumstances connected with topographical delineation, which, perhaps, are best introduced as *miscellaneous occurrences entitled to notice*. Under such a head we collect the following particulars.*—The city appears to have been first paved in consequence of letters patent granted by Edward I. in 1285, empowering the burgesses and inhabitants to collect a toll, for three years, upon all marketable commodities brought for sale. The paving, however, was not completed twenty years afterwards; for, in 1305, the citizens were permitted by a second grant, to levy another toll for the same purpose on similar articles. Considerable improvements in the paving were effected by John Botoner, mayor of the city, in the year 1406.

Coventry

* And here, in a note, it may not be improper to bestow brief attention on an expression sometimes used, in which the name of this city is implicated.—When it is desirable to condemn a person to compulsory silence by refusing to reply to any thing he advances, the offender is said to be *sent to Coventry*. Some have endeavoured to explain this term of usage by supposing that, from the situation of the place (near the centre of England,) the refractory subjects of early ages were sent hither for confinement, and that they were conveniently *close, silent, and deprived of communication*, on so insulated a spot.

But the following attempt at explanation will, perhaps, be more readily received.—The inhabitants of this inland city were formerly most decidedly averse from any correspondence with the military quartered within their limits. A female known to speak to a man in a scarlet coat became directly the object of town scandal. So rigidly, indeed, did the natives abstain from communication with all who bore his Majesty's military commission, that officers were here confined to the interchanges of the mess-room; and in the mess-room the term of "sending a man to Coventry," if you wish to shut him from society, probably originated. If so, the notion has no longer truth for its basis; the military now meet in this city with every polite attention that may be expected to spring from an improved liberality of manner.

Coventry was visited by pestilence, to a dreadful extent, in the following years:—1350, 1564, 1574, 1578, 1603, and 1625.

In the "Catalogue of the Mayors of Coventry, with remarkable actions done by them," inserted in Thomas's Edition of Dugdale, occurs the following passage: "1411. John Honeby Mayor; he arrested *the Prince*" (afterwards Henry V.) "at the Priory in this City."

In the year 1607, the streams which water Coventry overflowed their banks, and destroyed property to a considerable amount. On the 9th of November, 1800, the river Sherbourn also produced a destructive inundation.

In March 1772, there occurred in Gosford Street a curious instance of combustion of the human body. The subject of this catastrophe was an elderly woman of the name of Clues, who was extremely addicted to the drinking of spirits. She had been long confined to her bed by an illness, the result of intemperance, and "was left, the evening before the accident, with only two small pieces of coal in the hind part of the grate, and a rush light on a chair at the head of her bed. The next morning a great smoke was perceived to issue from the room. On bursting open the door some flames appeared, which were soon extinguished. Her remains lay on the floor; the furniture of the room was only slightly damaged; the bedstead was superficially burnt, but neither sheets, nor bed, nor blankets, were destroyed." It is argued, "that as this person was in the habit of drinking to an excess, her veins became almost filled with pure spirits, and she was inflammable as a lamp. She rolled, as it is supposed, out of bed, took fire from the candle, and, in about two hours, was totally burnt, her thighs and one leg excepted; and nothing was left but her bones, in a complete state of calcination."*

There

* An account of this accident was originally communicated to the Annual Register, by Mr. Wilmer, a surgeon. In Trotter's Essay on Drunkenness several instances are collected of the igneous quality of the human body in persons inordinately addicted to drinking. Dr. Trotter quotes the *Journal*

There are several Sunday schools in this city, the first of which was established in 1785. The number of dissenting meeting-houses is six, besides a Roman Catholic chapel, and a meeting for the temperate class termed Quakers.

Coventry returns two members to Parliament, who are chosen by the freemen. The sheriffs are returning officers. The privilege of sending representatives was enjoyed by this city during the four first Parliaments of Edward I. Occasional interruptions afterwards occurred, but since the year 1453, the privilege has remained undisturbed. The freedom of the city is acquired by a servitude of seven years to a trader in Coventry or the suburbs. The number of freemen * is about 3000. The elective franchise has, unfortunately, for a long time been exercised with so much heat of party spirit, that if Shakspeare's imaginary Falstaff were in being, and at the head of his forlorn recruits, prudential motives, as well as feelings connected with pride, might justify his protesting that he would not "march through Coventry," if his course lay that way when the freemen evince their different political sentiments without control.

When Mr. Hales made some representations to the protector Somerset in behalf of the city of Coventry, he stated that the population of the place did not exceed 3000, though it had formerly amounted to 15,000. This was, probably, an exaggerated picture of the evils accruing from the dissolution of religious houses; but, in 1586, the people in this city were numbered, in consequence of a scarcity of provisions, when the aggregate was said to be only 6,502. In the year 1723, St. Michael's parish contained

De Physique, in which is a paper on the subject by Pierre Aime Lair. It is observable that the instances of combustion mentioned by these writers, have all occurred to females considerably advanced in life.

* The freemen of Coventry have the privilege of turning two horses and a cow, or two cows and a horse, on grounds bestowed for the accommodation of the inhabitants. These are entitled Lammas Grounds, and comprise about 3000 acres, lying contiguous to the city. They are laid open for the use of the freemen from Lammas Day till the ensuing Candlemas.

contained 1237 houses, and Trinity parish 697. According to **Bradford's Survey**, in 1748 and 1749, Coventry then contained, in the whole, 2,065 houses, and 12,817 inhabitants. From the returns made under the Population Act in 1801, it appears that the number of houses was 2,930, and of inhabitants 16,049. The same returns for 1811, state the numbers as follow: inhabited houses, 3,448. Houses uninhabited, 50. Houses now building, 12. Inhabitants, 17,923.

Among the eminent *natives* of Coventry will be found several who liberally cultivated letters in the seclude, but gloomy, cloisters of monastic seclusion. The most distinguished of these are; *Vincent of Coventry*, who was bred a Franciscan in Cambridge, and afterwards became a public professor in that University. He lived in the early part of the 13th century, and had the merit of being the first of the Franciscans that rose superior to the bigotry of the order, and considered academical study a suitable auxiliary to religious habit. Vincent wrote an exposition of the mass, a repetition of the lessons, &c. *William Maklesfield*, who is claimed as a native on the authority of Bishop Godwin. He was general of the order of Dominicans, and was an academic of great celebrity. Pope Benedict XI. who was of the same religious fraternity, forwarded to him a cardinal's hat, but he died before its arrival. *William of Coventry* was bred a Carmelite in this city, and was afflicted with an incurable injury in the hip, which caused him to be termed *Claudus Conversus*, the lame convert. His name was not prefixed to any of his writings; but it is, however, to be collected from the capital letters of his several works. *John Bird* was bred a Carmelite at Oxford, and became afterwards the head and last provincial of his order. He gained favour with Henry VIII. by preaching against the primacy of the Pope, for which service he was successively preferred to the bishoprics of Bangor and Chester. He shewed more discretion than principle by complying with the ruling opinions in the reign of Mary; and dying in 1556, was buried at Chester. In more recent periods Coventry has produced the following persons,

SONS,

sens entitled to notice :—*James Cranford*, the son of an eminent schoolmaster and divine, resident in this city. He was bred at Oxford, and after enjoying for some time a benefice in Northamptonshire removed to St. Christopher's, London. Mr. Cranford was one of the most temperate and decorous supporters of the church during the troubles to which both church and state were subjected in the 17th century. His orthodoxy was built on principle, and was rendered graceful and attractive by his unfeigned humility. The firmness of his opinions was not to be shaken by the reiterated attempts of the designing and impassioned; yet was his charity so unbounded and well-known that he retained to the last the respect of all classes. He died rather infirm than old, in 1657. *Humphrey Wanley*, eminent as a scholar and an antiquary, was the son of Nathaniel Wanley, * vicar of Trinity church, Coventry. He was born in 1671-2, and his father so far mistook his capacity as to put him to a handicraft trade; but his inclination for literature becoming evident Dr. Lloyd, his diocesan, sent him to St. Edmund's Hall, Oxford, where he assisted Dr. Mills, then principal of that hall, in his collations of the New Testament. He afterwards removed to University College, and was shortly appointed librarian to the Earl of Oxford. He, likewise, travelled over England in search of Anglo-Saxon MSS. at the desire of Dr. Hickee, and drew up the catalogue of them in his *Thesaurus*. He designed many works, interesting to the student of antiquities, but was prevented accomplishing his intentions by several discouraging circumstances. Mr. Wanley died in 1726. There is an original picture of him in the Bodleian Library, from which a mezzotinto print has been scraped by Smith. There is likewise, a half-length of him, sitting, in the room of the Society of Antiquaries. † *John Tipper* was
master

* Author of the *History of Man*, &c. for the presentation of which work to the council of the city of Coventry, he received, as a compliment, the sum of 10*l*.

† For further particulars concerning Humphrey Wanley, see *Anecdotes of Bowyer*.

master of the Bablake School, in Coventry, and was the publisher of an Almanac, intituled the Lady's Diary, which commenced in 1704, and was continued to the year of his death, 1713. He also proposed to compile a history of his native city, but died before his materials were arranged. In the Coventry collection is an extract from an entertainment written by Tipper, and performed by the Bablake boys, on June 27, 1706, the day of thanksgiving for victories in Flanders and Spain. From this specimen it would appear that he was more conspicuous for loyalty than poetical talent. *Nehemiah Grew* a philosopher and physician of good repute, was the son of Obadiah Grew, D. D. and vicar of St. Michael's. He was bred in one of the foreign Universities, where he took the degree of doctor of physic. He resided for some time at Coventry, but removing to London, was much patronized by those best able to judge of his merits; and was, in 1672, appointed curator to the Royal Society, for the anatomy of plants. Applying himself sedulously to the study of that pleasing part of nature, he composed many books on the subject; several of which have been translated into foreign languages. In 1677, he was chosen secretary to the Royal Society; a situation which he filled with credit till his death in the year 1711.

Coventry affords the title of Earl to a family descended from John Coventry (son of William Coventry, of this city) who was Lord Mayor of London in 1425. The title of Baron was bestowed in 1628. Thomas, third Lord Coventry, was created Viscount Deerhurst and Earl of Coventry, in 1697. George-William, the present and seventh Earl, succeeded to the family honours in the year 1809.

In the close neighbourhood of Coventry, on the south-east, stood a monastery belonging to the Carthusians. This religious house originated in the pious inclinations of William Lord Zouch, of Harringworth in Northamptonshire, who procured fourteen acres of land in this place, in the year 1381, and intended to erect suitable buildings for the use of the Carthusian monks. His

design was prevented by death, but he bequeathed 60*l.* *per ann.* towards the assistance of any future establishment that might be formed on the spot.

Benefactors soon arose, anxious to carry into execution the warmest wishes of this pious lord. The most considerable of these were Richard Luff, a Mayor of Coventry, and John Boler, a fellow-citizen, who bestowed the sum of 400 marks towards the buildings. The other contributors were numerous, and a list of many of them, with the particular portion of the structure raised by each, may be seen in Dugdale, who informs us "that this account was preserved by his worthy friend, Mr. John Langley, from two leaves of parchment written in the time of Richard II. being the fragment of a MS. redeemed by him from utterly perishing, having been by some ignorant person made the cover of a schoolboy's book."

King Richard II. in 1385, honoured this house by becoming its titular founder; and, at the instance of Anne his queen, laid, with his own hand, the first stone of the church. Many valuable donations succeeded; and at the Dissolution the revenues were stated at 131*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* above all reprises. The prior made an easy surrender, and received the large pension of 40*l.* *per ann.*

The remains of the ancient structure are trifling, but a commodious dwelling has been raised on the site, which is termed the CHARTER HOUSE, and is now the property and residence of Edward Inge, Esq. The original wall forming the outward boundary of the monastery is still standing, and in the garden are the marks of many small doors, once acting as entrances to the cells.

WHITLEY HALL, the seat of Lord Hood*, is one mile and a half from Coventry, on the south-east. The estate of Whitley came to its present noble proprietor in consequence of his marriage with the daughter and heir of the late Francis Wheler, Esq. The hall, (or manor house, as it is termed by Dugdale)

is

* The late Lady Hood was created Baroness Hood, of Catherington, with remainder to her son, the present Baron.

is a capacious stone mansion, of the Elizabethan age, seated on a gentle eminence, and commanding agreeable views over a considerable extent of country. Large repairs, and some alterations, have lately been effected, under the direction of Mr. Soane. It is believed that Charles I. fixed his station at Whitley Hall, when he unsuccessfully summoned the city of Coventry, in 1642.

At STIVICHALL, near Whitley, is the substantial stone residence of Francis Gregory, Esq. The mansion was built about sixty years back, by the father of the present proprietor, and and has lately undergone some improvements, among which is the addition of one entire wing. The ancient church, originally a member of St. Michael's, Coventry, has been recently taken down, and a new building, of very moderate proportions, erected under the auspices of Mr. Gregory. On the north side of the former edifice was a handsome Saxon doorcase. In the time of Henry VI. an anchorite fixed his melancholy abode at Stivichall.

The village of EXHALL is four miles from Coventry on the north-east. Dr. Thomas, the continuator of Dugdale's Antiquities, was many years vicar of this parish, though he chiefly resided, when in Warwickshire, at Atherstone upon Stour. This writer was grandson to the celebrated Dr. Thomas, Bishop of Worcester; from whom, however, he inherited but little property. He was presented to the living of Exhall through the interest of Lord Somers, to whom he was distantly related. He married Elizabeth, the only daughter of George Carter, Esq. of Brill, in Buckinghamshire, who brought him a considerable property, partly situate in this county. His grandfather, the Bishop of Worcester, had been preceptor to Queen Anne, and her majesty is said to have been well inclined to further the views of Dr. Thomas, in regard to advancement in the church; but he was too fond of independence and literary leisure to pass the flower of his time in court attendance. His family was large, and in order to acquire desirable tuition for his children, beneath his

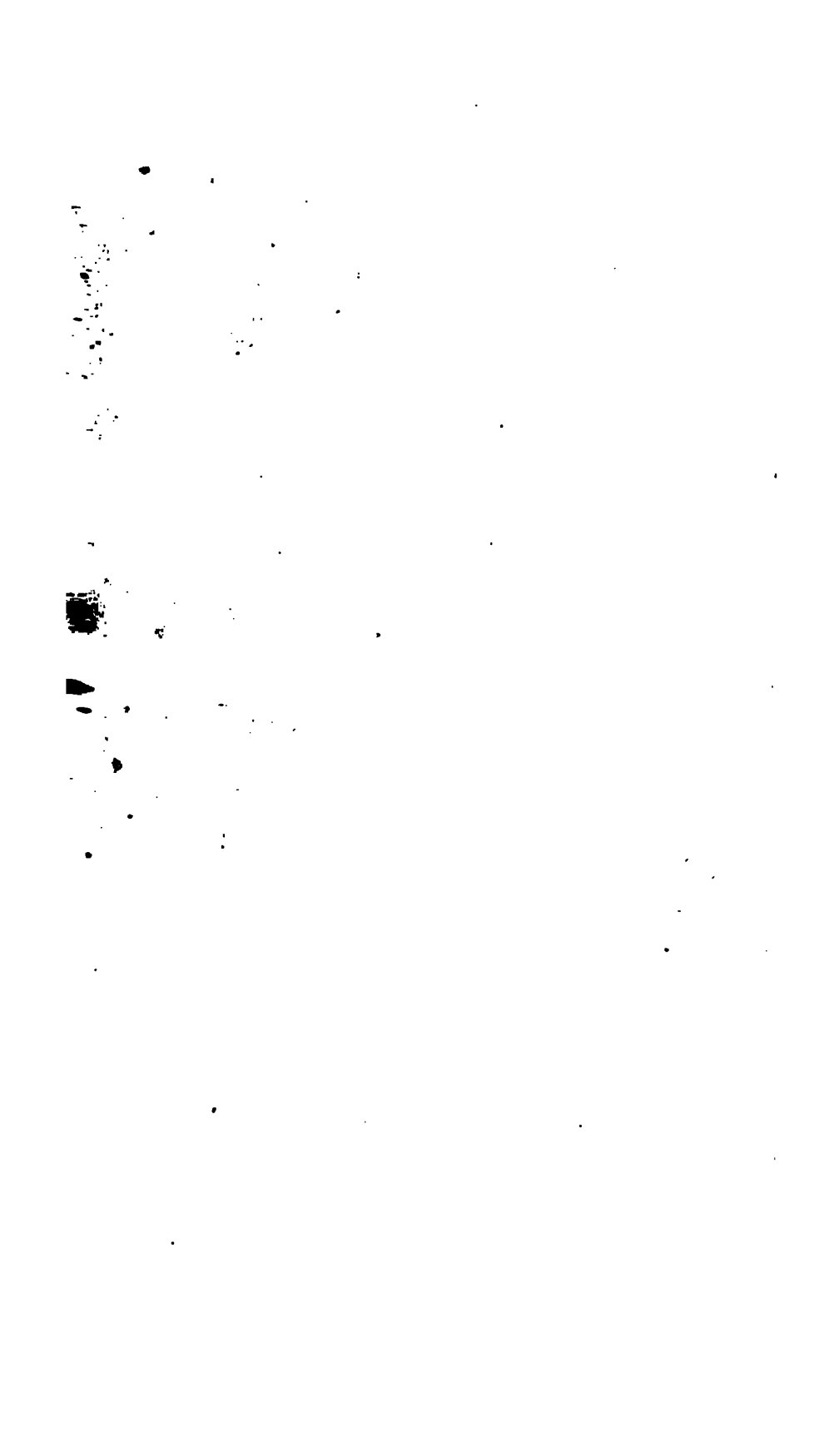
own notice, he removed to Worcester; and, in 1723, was presented to the rectory of St. Nicholas in that city, by Bishop Hough, the chosen friend and patron to whom he dedicated his three chief productions: *Antiquitates Prioratus Majoris Malverne*; the continuation of Dugdale; and the Survey of the cathedral church at Worcester. Dr. Thomas had travelled much in the early part of life, and was well acquainted with the most useful modern languages. He was, likewise, a sound classical scholar; and, in order to favour his love of antiquarian pursuits, had made himself master of the Saxon. His industry was so great that he is said to have scarcely allowed time for ordinary refreshment. Mr. Gough has spoken harshly of the most important of the doctor's works, his edition of Dugdale, but it should be recollected that he commenced that arduous task with popular discouragement rather than succour; and if many opportunities of improvement are neglected, still much useful matter is introduced. He died at the age of 68, in the year 1738, and is buried in the cloisters of Worcester cathedral.

KINETON HUNDRED

lies to the south of the hundred of Knightlow, and is bounded on the east and south-east by a part of Oxfordshire. More than half of its western limits touch the county of Gloucester: in their progress towards the north the same limits abut on the hundred of Barlichway. The Roman Foss way enters this hundred on the south-west, and quits it on the north-east, in the neighbourhood of Chesterton. Kinton hundred is formed into the four divisions *, termed *Brailcs*; *Burton-Dasset*; *Kinton*; and *Warwick*.

BRAILES

* The town of Warwick may, perhaps, in itself be considered as forming a fifth division.





Engraved by J. G. Thompson, after a drawing by J. G. Thompson.

BRAILES DIVISION

comprises the following parishes, township, and hamlets:—*Barcheston*, with *Wellington*; *Barton on the Heath*; *Brailes*; *Barmington*; *Cherington*; *Compton-Wynyate* (extraparochial) *Hoxington*; *Idlicote*; *Long Compton*; *Pillerton-Hersey*; *Pillerton-Priors*; *Stawerton* (township); *Stretton on the Foss*; *Whatecott*; *Whichford*, with *Ascot*; *Woolford, great*; *Woolford, little* (hamlet.)

COMPTON WYNATE is situate near the eastern border of the county. The term Wynyate appears to be derived from a vineyard formerly cultivated here. Camden styles the place Compton in the Hole, a mode of designation well suited to its local circumstances, but which is a vulgar redundancy of expression, as the word Compton signifies in itself a collection of dwellings in a cwm, or valley.

A family affluent in men of worth and renown, took its surname from this well-screened and fertile lordship.

The first of the Compton family that attained great distinction was Sir William Compton, who was placed, at the age of eleven years, as page or companion to the second son of Henry VII. then Duke of York, and afterwards King Henry VIII. The favour of this illustrious intimate of his youth procured for Sir William, at a subsequent period, state employments, which he supported with credit, and great riches, which he enjoyed without ostentation. His grandson, Henry, was summoned by writ to the House of Lords, by the title of Baron Compton of Compton; and William, the son of this Henry, the first baron, was created Earl of Northampton, in 1618. Spencer Compton, second Earl of Northampton, was one of the most zealous adherents to Charles I. By this nobleman an opposition was raised in the county of Warwick to the factious influence of Lord Brooke; and the men levied by him in the county for the king's

use bore a distinguished part in several actions of importance. This high-spirited and loyal cavalier fell at the battle of Hopton Heath, Staffordshire. In this engagement the royal party, though much inferior in numbers to their adversaries, succeeded in driving their horse from the field. Pursuing with too much heat, the earl was left encompassed by a body of the enemy; and his horse being killed under him, and the head-piece of his armour stricken off by the butt-end of a musquet, he was called to surrender, on a promise of quarter. To this summons he replied, that he scorned to take quarter from "such base rogues and rebels as they were;" on which he was put to death, receiving almost at the same moment a blow on the hinder part of his head with a halbert, and a deep wound in the face. His lordship left six sons, who were all distinguished for loyalty and active virtue. Five were knighted; and Henry, the youngest, was Bishop of London, and is justly said to have been one of the most eminent prelates that ever sat in that see. He was born at Compton Wynyate, in the year 1632. After pursuing the usual course of academic study, with as much regularity as the unhappy character of the times would permit, he travelled for some years; but on the Restoration entered the king's service as a cornet of horse. He soon became tired of a military life, and dedicated himself to the service of the church. In 1675, he was nominated to the Bishopric of London, and was so highly esteemed by the court that he was entrusted with the important office of educating the Princesses Mary and Anne. To the care of the bishop may be chiefly ascribed the firmness with which those princesses ever adhered to the Protestant mode of faith; for he was one of the most decided opposers of all covert or open endeavours to introduce the Roman Catholic religion to this country. On account of the undaunted exercise of such principles he was suspended by James II; and only was restored when the king dreaded the arrival of the Prince of Orange. This excellent prelate died, at the age of 81, in the year 1713.

By

By Sir William Compton there was constructed, in the reign of Henry VIII. a spacious residence on this manor, which is still standing, though only as a deserted monument of the mingled splendour and affliction of former days. Sir William had by the king's grant, the custody of the neighbouring castle of Fulbroke; and from the ruins of that pile he removed the chief materials of which the mansion is composed. A surrounding park he commenced in the eleventh of Henry VIII. and obtained the king's licence to enclose, for that purpose, two thousand acres of land and wood. Compton Wyniate house is an extensive, but irregular edifice, formed to surround a court; and originally encompassed by a moat, some traces of which yet remain. Over the porch of the principal entrance are the royal arms of England, beneath a crown, supported by a greyhound and a griffin. On each side are a Rose and Crown in panels. The shafts of the chimneys are made leading features of ornament, as was usual at this period; and much carved timber is inserted in some of the gables. Within the mansion is the ancient chapel. The house and annexed estate are now the property of Charles, Earl of Northampton, who acceded to the family honours in 1796; but this venerable seat is not used by his lordship as a residence. The old furniture, pregnant with allusions to former story, was sold by auction during the life of the late Earl. Among the articles was a carved and gilt bedstead, on which it said Henry VIII. reposed, when on a visit to the loyal and approved companion of his youth.

Compton House narrowly escaped demolition during the civil war in which its noble owners acted so conspicuous a part. In 1646, it was garrisoned by the Parliament army, who indulged their perverse inclinations by reducing the neighbouring church to a mass of ruin, and by mingling with the fragments each monumental tribute that had been thought sacred from all inroads except those of time. On the restoration of national good order the church was rebuilt, and has since afforded a place of burial to several of the Compton family.

In the adjacent extensive parish of BRAILES are elevations commanding fine and diversified prospects.

LONG COMPTON is about five miles from Brailes, and occupies the southern extremity of the county. The extent and local circumstances of this village evince the propriety of the appellation bestowed on it. In the 15th of Henry III. Hubert de Burgo, Earl of Kent, obtained a charter for a weekly market here, upon the Monday, and an annual fair to begin on St. Peter's Eve, and to last for three days. The common land of Compton, supposed to contain 2500 acres, is at this time enclosing.

Weston, originally a member of Long Compton, was for many ages the property and residence of the Sheldon family, by whom was constructed, in the latter part of the 16th century, a noble mansion, surrounded by 300 acres of park. William Sheldon, the founder of this seat, was a great encourager of the Flemish tapestry weavers, when first they introduced their art to English practice. Under his direction was woven a curious series of maps, consisting of three large pieces of tapestry, nearly eighty feet square, and covering two sides of a spacious old room. On the sale of the furniture at Weston, which took place in 1781, this tapestry was purchased by Mr. Horace Walpole, who presented it to the late Earl Harcourt. It is now carefully preserved at Nuneham Courtenay*. The ancient mansion of the Sheldons is completely taken down.

Near BARTON ON THE HEATH, says Leland, there is "a bigge stone, a three miles west from Rollerich Stones, which is a very marke or lines of Glocestre, Wicester, Warwickshire, and Oxfordshire." The Four-Shire Stone is about two miles to the west of Barton. In this village resided Robert Dover, an attorney of so pacific a disposition that it is said he never tried more than two causes, usually acting as a friend and mediator when disputes arose. Mr. Dover instituted, about the year 1600, the annual festivities, termed the *Cotswold Games*, which attained so much celebrity

* See *Beauties for Oxfordshire*, p. 277.

celebrity that they were honoured by the poetical notice of Ben Jonson and Drayton.*

BURTON DASSETT DIVISION

comprises the following parishes and chapelry:—*Avon Dasset*; *Burton Dasset*; *Farnborough*; *Fenny Compton*; *Mollington* (chapelry); *Priors Hardwick*; *Priors Marson*; *Ratley and Upton*; *Shottswell*; *Shuckburgh Inferior*; *Warmington* and *Arlescott*; *Wormleighton*.

FARNBOROUGH, written *Fernberge* in the Norman Survey, "probably had at first that name from the natural disposition of the soil to bear fern; the latter syllable *Berge* signifying in our old English a little hill; and such we see to be the situation of this town,"† The manor was long vested in a family who assumed the surname of Say at a period not far distant from the Conquest. It then passed to the Raleighs; of which family it was purchased, near the commencement of the 18th century, by Ambrose Holbech, Esq. an eminent lawyer in Warwickshire, and is now the property of William Holbech, Esq. his descendant, who has here a handsome seat in a very agreeable situation.

The manor of WORMLEIGHTON, after various transmissions, came to Sir Simon Montfort, on whose attainder, in the reign of Henry VII. it was granted to William Cope, the king's cofferer. By this lord the manor was sold to John Spenser, Esq. who was knighted in the reign of Henry VIII. and whose descendant, Robert, was created a baron of the realm, by the title of Lord Spenser of Wormleighton, in the first of James I. The manor remains with this noble family to the present day; and by Sir John Spenser was constructed, in the reign of Henry VII. the extensive mansion on this estate, in which he resided with a household consist-

* See Beauties for Gloucestershire, p. 655.

† Antiq. of Warwickshire, p. 528.

ing of sixty persons, in the exercise of genuine hospitality.—In Gough's additions to Camden it is said that there was found in a pit, between Wormleighton and Stanton, a trunk of a tree, hewn into a coffin, with bones in it, and many coins, particularly those of Constantine.

The small village of RATLEY is written *Rotelei* in Domesday, and appears to have obtained its name from the redness of soil prevailing in the Edgehill district, of which this little neighbourhood forms a part. "Upon the corner of Edgehill, within this parish," says Sir William Dugdale, "there is a great fortification, of a triangular form, its two sides about 400 paces long, and its base about 200; the entrance into it is at the point of the triangle, coming up the steep of the hill. It contains about twelve acres, as I guess. Near unto which, in our memory, was found a sword of brasse and a battail axe." This fortification is usually called Nadbury Camp, and was probably constructed by the Romans.

BURTON DASSET, or DERSET, though now comprising only a few scattered houses, was formerly of some local note, and is termed, in ancient records, *Cheping* Derset, on account of its market. John Rous, and several contemporary writers,* complain much of the evils arising in the fifteenth century from the enclosures which then took place. In opposition to what they advance, it is observable that Dugdale, speaking of land enclosed within this lordship in the 14th of Henry VII. says: "By the inquisition then taken, I find that the decay of tillage" (arising from the conversion of ploughed ground into pasturage,) "was no prejudice, but benefit, to the publique; for, whereas before that time they were able to entertain but XX strangers, upon occasion, they could afterwards entertain LX as well. And whereas, before the enclosure, they had but one priest, then were there two, and many clerks performing divine service every holyday by *note*, none such having been kept before, by reason of the disability of the parishioners. That the benefice was better,

* J. Rous died in 1491.

ter, and more of value to the incumbent. That the children of the parish were better taught ; and better houses kept ; and that there were then within the precincts of the parish CXL communicants."*

In the village of WARMINGTON was a small alien priory, founded in consequence of the bounty of Henry de Newburgh, Earl of Warwick, which stood, according to tradition, near the centre of the village.

KINETON DIVISION

consists of the following parishes, hamlets, &c.—*Atherstone-upon-Stour* ; *Butlers-Marston* ; *Chadshunt* ; *Compton-Scorfen*, (hamlet) *Compton-Verney*, (extra parochial,) *Combroke*, (hamlet) *Eatington*, Lower and Upper ; *Gaydon* ; *Halford*, otherwise *Halford Bridge* ; *Ilmington* ; *Kineton* ; *Lighthorne* ; *Oxhill* ; *Radway* ; *Tysoe*, with *Westcote* ; *Whitchurch*, with *Broughton*, *Crimscott*, and *Wimpstone*.

The small town of KINETON, or KINGTON, is situate to the north-west of the Edge-hills, a range of elevations which seem named with great propriety, as they rise quickly to a marked and highly-exalted ridge in the neighbourhood of a comparatively level district. The Edge-hills form a natural terrace nearly five miles in length, and command a variety of prospects not only extensive, but in many instances picturesque. The town of Kineton is supposed by Camden to derive its appellation from a market formerly celebrated for traffic in *Kinc*. But this is said by Gibson to be an erroneous conjecture, as Henry I. gave the church, under the name of Chinton, to the canons of Kenilworth ; and the market was granted in the fourth of Henry III. We have little room for disquisitions respecting etymology, but we cannot avoid remarking that the grant might be merely renewed by Henry III. ; though, as the place is not mentioned in

N 4

Domesday,

* Antiq. of Warwickshire, p. 522.

Domesday, no earlier market existing here is on record. Dugdale, however, believes the name to imply a town belonging to the king; and supports his opinion by proving, from an authentic source, that the place "was in the possession of Edward the Confessor, or William the Conqueror, and very likely of other kings before those days." It appears that there was formerly a castle on the west of the town, which is connected, in the legends of the neighbourhood, with the monarch so familiar to traditional reference—King John. At the foot of the hill on which the castle stood is a well, also locally called King John's Well. We have not any historical documents to shew that Kineton ever attained much commercial distinction. It has a weekly market, and two annual fairs. In the returns under the Population Act for 1811, the number of inhabited houses is stated to be 166; of houses uninhabited six; and one house now building. The number of inhabitants, according to the same returns, is 801.

The vicinity of this small town has acquired a lamentable celebrity from a civil contest which took place in the seventeenth century. The battle of Edge-Hill was the first between King Charles and the Parliament, and was fought on the 23d of October, 1642. Impatient of striking a blow which he hoped would prove decisive, when convinced that bloodshed was unavoidable, the king left Shrewsbury, where his army had been stationed, and marching towards the capital, fixed his head quarters in the neighbourhood of Banbury. Two days after the king commenced his march, the Earl of Essex, with the Parliament forces, quitted Worcester, and quartered in the town of Kineton and its vicinity. The first hostile movement was made by the royal party, who appeared on the lofty eminence of Edge-Hill at about ten o'clock on the morning of Sunday the 23d of October. The Parliamentarians hastened to meet their adversaries, and drew into line near the foot of the hill; to which level the king's troops descended in form of battle. The men on both sides appear to have been nearly equal in number; but most of those engaged were new to action, and the progress of the battle was
marked

marked by mutual instances of precipitancy and alarm. The number of men in arms on the field was, perhaps, about 20,000.*

The battle commenced inauspiciously for the Parliament leaders. Sir Faithful Fortescue, who commanded a troop in their service, ordered his men, on the approach of the king, to discharge their pistols on the ground; and he then placed himself under the direction of Prince Rupert. The attack promptly made by the prince was furious, and the enemy's left wing of cavalry immediately fled. Their other wing was likewise routed; but the king's reserve, commanded by Sir John Biron, rashly concluding that the victory was now complete, joined in the chase. Sir William Balfour, who commanded the reserve of the opposite power, perceived this opportunity, and turning on the king's infantry, thus abandoned by the horse, committed great slaughter among them. At this juncture the Earl of Lindsey, the general, was mortally wounded; and his son, attempting his rescue, was taken prisoner. Sir Edmund Verney, the king's standard-bearer, was killed; and the standard was taken, but was afterwards recovered.†

Then

* We may be excused for thus doubtfully stating the numbers engaged, when the misrepresentations of parties in so tempestuous a period are duly considered. If we give credit to the Parliamentary suggestions there were not less than 18,000 on the side of the King.

† In the account forwarded to the Parliament this occurrence is thus evasively noticed.—“Sir Edmund Varney, who carried the King's standard, was slain by a gentleman of the Lord Generall's troop of horse, and the standard taken; which was afterwards, by the Lord Generall himself, delivered unto his secretary, with an intention to send it back the next day unto his majesty; but the secretary, after he had carried it long in his hand, suffered it to be taken away by one of our troopers, and as yet we cannot learn where it is.” The curious pamphlet from which we extract this passage is intitled, “An Exact and True Relation of the Fight,” &c. in a letter sent to John Pym, for the information of the Parliament, and signed, not by the general of the Parliamentary army, the Earl of Essex, but by six other persons (Hollis, Stapleton, Ballard, Balfore, Meldrum, and Charles Pym,) who were present at the action. The letter was printed five days after the Battle.

Thus, on his return, Prince Rupert, who seems never to have looked farther into a battle than his own immediate concern with the division engaged, found affairs wearing the aspect of defeat, rather than that of the victory which he anticipated; and so great was the panic that many advised the king to quit the field; but Charles resisted with disdain such pusillanimous counsel. It was noon when the battle commenced, and the close of day was now at hand. It is probable that the leaders on both sides were rendered diffident of their troops, by the events of the contest. At any rate neither attempted to pursue the advantages which hung dubiously balanced between them. Both parties remained under arms during the night; and both claimed the victory; but Essex first drew from the field, and retired to Warwick. The King resumed his former quarters.

Ordinary historians copy, without scruple, the exaggerated statements produced in a heated moment by party emulation. The Chroniclers of this day's disastrous events affirm the number of those who fell on both sides to be at least 5000. But, "according to a survey taken by Mr. Fisher, vicar of Kington, (who was appointed by the Earl of Essex for that purpose,) the list of the slain amounted only to 1300, and odd."* At the time of the action the field of battle was not enclosed; but the soil is of a deep and heavy character. About five hundred of the victims were thrown into a contiguous pit; and a few fir-trees yet direct the examiner to this spot of sordid military sepulture. Human bones, and fragments of weapons, are often found in the vicinage.

At RADWAY, in the close neighbourhood of this memorable field, is the seat of F. Miller, Esq. by whom has been constructed a tower and ruins, to imitate those of a castellated building, on a spot commanding extensive and picturesque views.

In the extensive lordship of Tysoe, and fronting the church of that village, there is cut on the side of a hill the figure of a horse, which, from the tint of the soil in which it is shaped, is termed

* See Gibson's Additions to Camden, &c.

termed the *Red Horse*; and the adjacent lowlands are called the Red Horse Vale. This representation is rudely designed; and the dimensions are trivial when compared with those of the far-famed *White* horse of Berkshire. From the croup to the chest is thirty-four feet; from the shoulder to the ears fourteen feet; from the ear to the nose seven feet six inches; and from the shoulder to the ground sixteen feet, or fifty-seven hands. It is usually supposed that this figure was designed in commemoration of the decided conduct by which Richard Nevil, Earl of Warwick, inspirited his party at the battle of Touton. The army on that day was placed in circumstances of peculiar peril, and the Earl ordered his horse to be brought forth, and, after kissing the hilt of his sword, plunged the weapon deep in the gallant animal's chest, vowing to share danger on equal terms with the meanest soldier. A decided victory ensued. The battle of Touton was fought on Palm Sunday, 1461; and it has been customary, on the recurrence of the Sunday so termed, for the neighbourhood to assemble in rustic festivity for the purpose of *scouring* the figure of the horse, or clearing it from the incumbrances of vegetation produced by the past year. Certain lands in the lordship of Tysoe are held by the service of maintaining this custom; but the ceremony has lately experienced some neglect.

COMPTON-MURDAK, or COMPTON-VERNEY, is nearly two miles from the town of Kineton, on the north-west. The term Compton has already been said to imply an assemblage of houses in a low situation: this place acquires its additional appellations from two distinguished families, both so long possessed of the lordship as to be locally united with it in popular repute. Robert Murdac obtained the property towards the latter part of the reign of Henry I.; and it remained with his descendants till the 44th of Edward III. in which year Thomas Murdac passed away his interest in the manor to Alice Perers, the celebrated concubine of King Edward. Alice was banished the realm by authority of Parliament, in the first year of Richard II.; but, on her subsequent marriage with Sir William Windsor, the king granted

to that knight a free possession of this manor. Richard Verney, then an esquire, and afterwards a knight, was possessed of the manor in the 20th of Henry VI. and by this lord was built the greater portion of a family residence, standing in the early part of the seventeenth century. A second Richard Verney was summoned to Parliament, as Lord Willoughby de Broke, in 1695, in consequence of a claim arising from Margaret, his grandmother, sister and heir to Fulk Grevile, Lord Broke. His descendant, John Peyto Verney, Lord Willoughby de Broke, is now possessed of the manor, and has here an elegant and spacious family seat, built towards the middle of the last century from a design by Adams. The grounds are extensive, and much ornamented by a fine spread of water. Near this mansion is a handsome and commodious chapel, which his lordship has lately been desirous of constituting the parochial place of worship; but this wish has met with considerable opposition.

At the distance of two miles from Compton-Verney, is WALTON-HALL, the seat of Sir Charles Mordaunt, Bart. one of the representatives in Parliament for the county of Warwick. The mansion occupies rather too low a site, but is surrounded by a fine and diversified tract of country. Many judicious alterations have lately been effected under the direction of Mr. Henry Hake-will; and the residence is now well fitted to the needs of an English gentleman of the first order. Near the house is a chapel, attractive from the modesty and simplicity of its architectural character. There were turned up by the spade from a bank on this estate, in the year 1774, three skulls, lying in a row; and with them "two Saxon jewels set in gold, which were probably once hung round the necks of two of the parties to whom these skulls belonged. One of them was set with an opal and two rubies; the other was adorned on both sides with a cross, between two rude human figures, with a sword or lance at the outer hand of each, and an inscription, which Mr. Pegge* explains

Mary

* See Archæol. III. 373; and Gough's Additions to Camden, p. 334.

Mary and Oswald, and refers to St. Oswald, the patron of Worcester, as if struck by Wolstan, bishop of that see about 1088."

LOWER EATINGTON is ornamented by the ancient family seat of Evelyn John Shirley, Esq.

At COMPTON-SCORFEN, on the north-west border of the division, was born, according to Antony Wood, Sir Thomas Overbury, familiar to the student of history from his melancholy end in the time of James I. But Bigland makes him a native of Bourton-on-the-Hill, Gloucestershire.* It is at any rate clear that he was educated in this neighbourhood, among the relatives of his mother, who was a daughter of the Palmers, a family long possessed of the manorial rights of Compton Scorfen.

The small village of ATHERSTONE-UPON-STOUR is seated near the bank of the river from which it acquires a designation, at the distance of three miles from Stratford-on-Avon. This village has been confounded by some topographers with the market-town of Atherstone, in the northern part of Warwickshire. The place under consideration attracts notice only from the circumstance of having afforded a residence to Dr. Thomas, the continuator of Dugdale's Antiquities, who possessed some property in the neighbourhood, in right of his wife, Elizabeth, the daughter of George Carter, Esq. of Brill, in Buckinghamshire.

WARWICK DIVISION,

exclusively of the town of Warwick, which has a separate jurisdiction, contains the following parishes:—*Barford; Bishop's-Tachbrook; Charlecote; Chesterton, and Kington, otherwise Little Chesterton; Lapworth; Moreton-Morrell; Newbold-Pacey, and Ashorn; Packwood; Tanworth; Wasperton; Wellsbourne-Hastings; Wellsbourne-Mountford.*

THE

* On the authority of which writer he is claimed as a native of Bourton in the volume of this work including Gloucestershire, p. 648.

THE TOWN OF WARWICK

is situate near the centre of the county to which it imparts a name, and is watered by the river Avon. This fair and pleasing town, enriched by a castle of stupendous grandeur, adorned by a chapel of exquisite workmanship, and furnished with public buildings, decorous, substantial, and well-suited, wants not the aid of monkish legend or flattering conjecture to render it attractive. But it has met, in Sir William Dugdale, with an historian, whose partiality, as we must believe, rather than a defect of judgment, has induced him to lend the sanction of his name to strange tales and crude opinions, which the present age will certainly feel inclined to reject with a smile. We shall only occasionally advert to such particulars as appear fantastical and imaginary; and shall endeavour to trace, as fully as our limits will allow, the history of the town and castle, on solid ground.

We cannot discover any reasons for believing that Warwick was a Roman station. Camden is disposed to think that this place was the *præsidium* of the Romans. But his arguments are entirely of a conjectural character; and subsequent writers, who have made the connection of the Romans with this island their particular study, advance better reasons for placing the *præsidium* either at Patrington, in Yorkshire; at Broughton; or in Hebbestow Fields on the grand military way now called High Street, which runs from Humber to Lincoln. Since we find that the locality of the *præsidium* is so indeterminate in the opinions of the learned, we look for the aid of corroborative circumstances to render plausible a particular conjecture. Not any occur in regard to the town of Warwick. No tangible vestiges of the Romans have been here discovered.* Dugdale says that, at
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* Inserted in the chimney-ornaments of an upper room at Warwick Castle, are many marbles, bearing Roman inscriptions. These are popularly said to have been dug up from a court attached to the castle. But, by the condescension



Engraved by J. G. G. G.

PART OF WARWICK.

London: Published by Thomas Smith & Sons, Printers, 25, Abchurch Lane.

See the Appendix to the History of Warwick.



any rate, "we cannot doubt but this was one of the forts and garrisons raised on the banks of the river Avon by P. Ostorius." Considering that the Romans had a large camp so near as Cherterton, about five miles distant on the opposite side of the river, we, however, think even this far from probable.

It appears likely that the place is of Saxon original; and, according to some early writers, it gained a distinguished accession of consequence from the patronage of Ethelfleda, the celebrated daughter of King Alfred, and Lady of the Mercians, who, in the year 915, constructed here a fortified dwelling, suited to the ferocious temper of the age, and termed the *Dungeon*. This building is believed to have been erected on the artificial mount still remaining on the west side of the castle; and, under such a protection, the town speedily advanced in population and repute.

In the Norman Survey Warwick is deemed a borough, and is there stated to contain two hundred and sixty-one houses: of which one hundred and thirty were possessed by the king; one hundred and twelve by certain of his barons; and nineteen were the property of so many burgesses, who enjoyed them with *Soc* and *Sac*, and all customs,* as in the days of Edward the Confessor. The Norman Conquest appears to have been a propitious era for the town of Warwick. Previous to this epoch, the titular Earls of Warwick were really no more than either fiduciary vice-comites, or substitutes to the Earls of Mercia, or immediate officers to the king; and did not in their own right possess the castle

condescension of the Earl of Warwick, we are enabled to state that it is not known in the family by what means they came into the possession of his lordship's late noble father. As they were introduced to the castle in the time of the late Earl, it is unlikely that a circumstance of such high interest as the digging up of many Roman vestigia should not have lived in the memory of some persons employed on the occasion. But the repeated investigations of many antiquaries, and other persons of literary curiosity, have failed in eliciting any resemblance of matter to render it likely that the popular assertion is creditable.

* That is with the entire jurisdiction.

castle and town. When the Conqueror assumed the crown of England, Turchill, the son of Alwine, was vicecomes of Warwick; and, as he had refrained from giving assistance to Harold in opposition to the Normans, he was not only suffered to remain in quiet possession of his estates, but was for some time permitted to retain his local office, and was employed to enlarge and fortify the castle. He was likewise ordered to surround the town with a ditch, and to strengthen it with gates. At a period shortly subsequent, the same king advanced Henry de Newburgh to the dignity of Earl of Warwick; and thus commenced a long line of protecting nobles, beneath whose notice the town progressively attained much real consequence and a flattering degree of celebrity. Its guardian-castle now stretched forth new lines, so massive as almost to deride assault; religious foundations (the certain harbingers of prosperity in early periods,) quickly took place; while the fosse which encompassed the town, and the gates constructed at the channels of approach, assisted in bestowing security on the efforts of the industrious.

John de Plesssetis, who was Earl of Warwick in right of his wife, Margaret de Newburgh, granted to the burgesses of Warwick, in the 45th of Henry III. a fair for three days; and directed "that in case any stranger, repairing thither at such time, should set up a stall of twelve feet upon the bare ground, he should pay VI^d. for the same; howbeit the inhabitants to erect stalls at their pleasure."* In this reign it was intended that several meetings should take place at Warwick among the more factious of the nobility, for the alledged purpose of celebrating festive jousts; but these dangerous assemblies were forbidden by the court. It is memorable that the king made this town the general rendezvous for his army, previous to the siege of Kenilworth Castle. In the reign of Edward I. the town was in a flourishing condition, and it now experienced many improvements. It appears that in the seventh year of this king, William de Beauchamp, then Earl of Warwick, held here a yearly fair lasting
sixteen

* Antiq. of Warwickshire, p. 424.

sixteen days, and a weekly market on the Wednesday. In the 18th of Edward I. the same earl obtained the king's charter for another fair, to last fifteen days. Towards the latter end of this reign the *paving* of the town was commenced; and at the same time the *walls* were likewise begun. The expense of both was chiefly defrayed by a toll on vendible commodities. But these two great works were far from being conducted with celebrity; for in the eighth of Edward II. the same Earl obtained permission to levy another toll for the term of three years: and, in the sixth of Edward III. Thomas de Beauchamp, the then Earl, had a third patent granted, empowering him to take toll for the further charges of the paving and walls, for a fresh term of seven years. It may be observed that various chivalric festivities took place at Warwick in the reign of Edward I. the principal actor in which was Roger Mortimer, who conducted the knightly revels already noticed at Kenilworth Castle.

In the first of Philip and Mary the burgesses received a charter of incorporation; and, in the year 1572, Warwick was honoured with a visit from Queen Elizabeth.* During the civil war of the seventeenth century this town suffered severely from the active part taken by Lord Brooke in public affairs. The castle was now rendered a depository of arms, and placed in a regular state of garrison. This strong hold at one period of the war sustained a siege, and several skirmishes occurred in the neighbourhood. Nor were the more lenient seasons of freedom from personal danger productive of entire tranquillity to the inhabitants; for, when relieved from the appearance of professed foes, they were continually harassed by the visits of armed throngs, who were only preferable to the enemy because they drained the householder's purse and board without holding a sword to his breast.

VOL. XV,

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* An account of the proceedings at this visit is preserved in the *Black Book of Warwick*. This book, which is in the possession of the Corporation, contains some interesting notices relating to the reigns of Elizabeth and James I. A copious extract, comprising an account of the visit of Elizabeth to Warwick, is inserted in Bib. Brit. Top. Number XVII.

In the year 1694 Warwick experienced the calamity of fire to a dreadful extent. The greater part of the town, including the High Street, and nearly the whole of St. Mary's Church, was consumed by the flames. The loss sustained on this occasion has been variously estimated. It was computed at the time to amount to 90,600*l.* but it is said that 120,000*l.* was employed in repairing the damage. The sum of 11,000*l.* was collected by brief; to which Queen Anne munificently added 1,000*l.* as a royal gift. According to Dr. Thomas, the chief part of this collection was appropriated to the rebuilding of the church. This affliction, like all others of a similar nature, though bitterly severe to the inhabitants of the period, was productive of great local improvement; and we may safely assert, from the aspect of those parts of the town which escaped conflagration, that the place is entirely indebted to its temporary misfortune for its domestic ornaments.

But, although the buildings were improved in size and character when the town was thus restored, the principal streets were originally disposed with desirable regularity. The appearance of this town, when visited by Leland, in the reign of Henry VIII. must be unusually acceptable, as such important alterations have taken place since the period at which he wrote. The following are his remarks:—"The town of Warwick hath been right strongly defended and walled, having a compass of a good mile within the wall. The dike is most manifestly perceived from the castle to the west gate, and there is a great crest of earth that the wall stood on. Within the precincts of the town is but one parochie church, dedicated to St. Mary, standing in the middle of the town, fair and large. The town stands on a main rokky kill, rising from east to west. The beauty and glory of it is in two streets, whereof the High Street goes from east to west, having a right goodly cross in the middle of it; and the other crossith the middle of it, making a quadrivium, and goeth from north to south."

The town is justly described by Leland as standing on a rocky hill. The acclivity, however, though somewhat abrupt, is not considerable.

considerable; and the principal streets possess as much equality of site as is desirable for purposes of traffic, while they are sufficiently remote from flatness to advance the great object of local cleanliness. The best approach, in point of picturesque effect, is that from the south-east, or Daventry and Banbury roads. The river Avon is here crossed by a handsome bridge of stone; and the castle towers, the spire of St. Nicholas, and the tower of St. Mary's, all stand displayed in captivating succession. The principal street of the town, to which the traveller now passes, is conspicuous for neatness and real beauty. This street is of a fair width, and of a considerable length. At the eastern extremity is an ancient gate, (through which, however, the chief road is not at present conducted;) and the perspective effect of this architectural termination is only slightly injured by certain modern embellishments bestowed by over-weening kindness. At the western end is a second gateway, untouched by the *beautifier's* hand, surmounted by a venerable chapel, of plain but impressive features. The whole street between the gates is formed in a direct line; the domestic buildings are sufficiently regular, and generally substantial; and nearly in the centre of the southern side stands the court-house, or town-hall, a respectable stone structure. The street which intersects this principal district, and passes nearly from north to south, contains, in its northern division, many capacious and ornamental buildings. But there are several other streets, independent of extensive suburbs. In the vicinity of the market-place, and in some other divisions of the town, are houses, occupied by traders, so large and well built, as satisfactorily to prove the commercial respectability of the place; but the majority of domestic buildings unconnected with the precincts already noticed are far from of an estimable description. They present, with very few exceptions, no marks of striking antiquity,* but yet are on a mean and contracted scale.

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* Worked into a few houses, are, however, very ancient fragments; perhaps the relics of religious foundations.

The survey of these is sufficient to prove the architectural benefits accruing to the town from the great fire.

The cross mentioned by Leland is no more. The extract given from this writer shews that the town *wall* had nearly disappeared, and was a subject of antiquarian speculation so early as the time of Henry VIII. Some portions, however, are still to be discovered. From a fragment contiguous to the eastern gate the wall does not appear to have been, in that direction, more than four feet in thickness; and it seems likely that the whole work was never of a very important description. Of the *dyke* which was formed in the time of William I. and on the margin of which the wall was afterwards raised, considerable traces are to be perceived; and it may be observed that one of the present streets gains its appellation from this fortified ditch.

John Rous mentions several *religious foundations* which took place at Warwick in Saxon eras. But his evidence is unsupported by earlier and more creditable record. The munificent protection of the Earls of Warwick led to frequent pious and charitable foundations, in eras subsequent to the Conquest. Our limits only allow us to notice such as have left visible memorials in the now altered scene; but we must observe, as a proof of the splendour of the town during the sway of some of the more tempestuous and mighty of its earls, that Warwick formerly possessed several more *churches* than at present, of which little trace now remains except in the page of the historian. These structures were united with the church of St. Mary, (then collegiate,) and were five in number:—*St. Helen's* stood where was afterwards founded a priory of St. Sepulchre. *St. Michael's* was built at the lower end of the street called Saltford, on the north part of the town. In the reign of Edward III. this church was in a decayed condition, and it appears to have soon after sunk to ruin. The church of *St. John the Baptist* stood near the centre of the market-place; and the "outward fabrie," according to Dugdale, was to be seen in the seventeenth century. *St. Peter's* is described as standing in the
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the midst of the town. This church was taken down in the reign of Henry VI. and a church dedicated to St. Peter built over the east gate. The church of *St. Lawrence* occupied a spot at the lower end of the west street, in the suburbs. The last presentation that occurs was in the year 1380.

The great buildings of early ages were all of a castellated or devoted character. Warwick is fortunate in retaining a castle and a chapel which rank among the brightest specimens of these two classes of architecture; and it likewise possesses some public structures calculated to ornament even the county town of an affluent and populous district.

The principal Church is dedicated to *St. Mary*. A church dedicated to this beatified character occupied the same spot before the Conquest. Henry de Newburgh, the first Earl of Warwick of the Norman line, formed the design of making the building collegiate, and of uniting the dean and secular canons to be placed there, with the priests belonging to the church of All Saints, a fabric that stood within the walls of the castle. But the work of collegiate foundation was completed by his son and successor, Earl Roger, in the year 1123; who bestowed on the associated canons, lands, advowsons, and tithes of considerable value. Succeeding Earls of Warwick continued to protect these secular priests,* and many benefactors, of different ranks, arose in after ages. At the time of the Dissolution under Henry VIII. the yearly revenues were certified to be 334*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.*

The church of St. Mary was rebuilt in the 14th century, through the munificence of the Earls of Warwick. The choir was commenced by Thomas de Beauchamp, the Earl so much distinguished in the French wars of Edward III. and the whole

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structure

* The reader may be reminded from Dugdale that secular canons performed the offices of priests, by administering to the laity on all occasions, in contradistinction to the canons regular. They did not eat or lodge in common, like the monks; but had entirely separate apartments and maintenance.

structure was completed by his descendant, Thomas Beauchamp, in the year 1394. This potent family now fixed on the collegiate church for their place of burial; and they constructed, towards the middle of the 15th century, a stately adjoining chapel for their peculiar cemetery. In the great fire of 1694, the larger portion of the church perished in the flames; but the choir, some rooms on the north-east, and the chapel, happily escaped.

A Latin inscription on three faces of the tower at the west end of the renovated structure, after mentioning that the ancient building was repaired by Roger, Earl of Warwick, in the time of King Stephen, and renewed by Earl Thomas, conveys intelligence which has been thus translated:—"Being destroyed, 1694, by a dreadful fire, sparing neither temples nor houses, this new church, begun and carried on by the public, was finished by royal piety, under the joyful auspices of Anne, in the memorable year 1704." The plan of the new building is lightly said to have been formed after a sketch by Sir Christopher Wren; but each feature of the structure denies the probable correctness of the assertion. In the early part of his professional life that great artist sometimes mixed in one design various styles of architecture, most discordant and incongruous in their characteristics. To such a boldness he was tempted by the exuberance of his fancy, when his judgment was young. But this building is marked by such humble combinations of the worst character of Gothic, or English, with the non-descript, ordinary, embellishments in use with mere masons, because they are easily worked, yet make great show of effort; that the imagination of a true architect, even in its sickly mood, can never be supposed guilty of the design.

Although the building has no pretensions to beauty, it is sufficiently firm and capacious. At the west end is a square tower, the height of which, from the base to the top of the battlements, is 130 feet. Between the piers supporting the tower a passage is worked, allowing the transit of carriages. The church is of a cruciform

cruciform description. The extreme length is about 186 feet: the breadth 66 feet. The cross aisle measures 106 feet six inches.

The interior is rendered august by the remains of the ancient structure. We here view the choir, untouched by the ravage of the flames, and stand with reverence amid the memorials of a family conspicuous in national story. On each side are ranges of stalls. The stone ceiling is finely designed and delicately worked. Among the chaste, yet plentiful, embellishments are introduced the arms of the founder, and his arms quartered with those of his wife, embosomed by seraphim. In the middle of the choir is the altar tomb of Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, and his lady, Catharine, the daughter of Roger Mortimer, first Earl of March. On the tomb are the recumbent effigies of the persons interred. The Earl's figure is in armour, and his right hand clasps the right hand of his countess, whose left hand is on her breast. On the sides and ends of the tomb are thirty-six figures, representing the closest relatives of the deceased Earl, with coats of arms beneath. These figures, usually termed weepers, curiously exhibit the peculiarities of dress prevailing at the period. Earl Thomas was a man of high consideration in the fourteenth century, and was much distinguished in the French and Scottish wars of Edward III. He was a munificent friend to the town of Warwick, and founded the choir in which his remains now lie. He died near Calais, on the 13th of November, 1370, being then in the 63d year of his age. His countess expired a few weeks before him.

The son and successor of this Earl, likewise named Thomas, was chosen governor to Richard II. during the minority of that king. But he sank beneath the factious machinations of the era; and, being dismissed from court, retired to his castle at Warwick, where he employed himself in various buildings suited to the liberality of his temper and the largeness of his revenues. He now completed the body of this collegiate church; and, dying in 1401, was buried, together with his Countess, Margaret,

daughter of Lord Ferrers of Groby, under a monument of white marble, in the south part of the church raised by his munificence. But, in the destructive fire of 1694, this monument unfortunately fell a victim to the flames. A brass plate, containing the effigies of himself and his lady, was found among the rubbish, and, by the proper care of one of the commissioners for rebuilding the town, was placed near the spot it formerly occupied, with an inscription explaining the calamity it had experienced.

There are numerous other monumental tributes in various parts of the church, but none possess such striking interest as to demand notice in a publication like the present. We, therefore, proceed to observe, that on the north of the choir are three distinct and substantial rooms. The first, termed the lobby, is now used as a receptacle for fire engines belonging to the town. The central apartment is of an octagonal shape, and was originally the chapter house of the dean and canons; but Sir Fulke Grevil, Lord Brooke, selected this room for a monument to his own memory, which he caused to be erected in his life-time. The monument is of black and white marble, and of a heavy character. On the ledge of the table part is the following inscription; "Fulke Grevil, servant to queen Elizabeth, counsellor to King James, and friend to Sir Philip Sydney." The remains of his lordship lie in a vault beneath, embalmed and enclosed in a coffin of lead. The remarkable epitaph penned for himself by this great man has met with many critical observations; but we cannot readily perceive that he could deliver to posterity materials for an estimate of his character more modest, yet more comprehensive. The man who faithfully obeyed a discreet princess; who had wisdom to give counsel to a weak sovereign; and whose qualifications were such as to render him the chosen friend of one of the most virtuous and accomplished cavaliers of the age; must needs be entitled to the respect of all who are reminded of those particulars. Had Fulke Lord Brooke left his epitaph to the care of a survivor, his integrity and talents would have been proclaimed

proclaimed with glowing emphasis. The pen of grateful truth would then have detailed the various public employments which he sustained with marked ability and exemplary good faith. It would have portrayed him as excelling in literary composition, and as uniformly fostering the efforts of the learned. It would have exhibited, on the cold tablet of the tomb, a catalogue of private virtues which the noble humility of the owner would never suffer to be named in his sensible and breathing presence. But the utmost art of a grateful penman could scarcely have formed a eulogy more satisfactory or energetic than the simple inscription dictated by the good sense of the deceased himself. His lordship lamentably fell by the hand of a domestic assassin, in the 75th year of his age. A creature, pampered to insolence by the plenty of his lord's table, felt offence at not being named in his will, (to which instrument he was one of the witnesses) as an object of posthumous bounty; and stabbed him, either with a knife or sword, in an apartment of Brooke House, Holborn. Public justice was disappointed by the wretch likewise destroying himself before he could be taken. This proof of the insecurity of those surrounded by numerous domestics occurred in 1628. The third apartment is used as a library and vestry room: beneath is a mausoleum for the noble family of Warwick.

The *Chapel of our Lady*, usually termed the *Beauchamp Chapel*, adjoins on the south the chancel of St. Mary's church. This fabric was erected in attention to the last will of Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick. The building was begun in the 21st of Henry VI. and was completed in the 3d of Edward IV. The total expense of the structure, including the tomb of the founder, was 2481*l.* 4*s.* 7½*d.* at a time when bread corn sold for 3*s.* 4*d.* the quarter. The exterior is a beautiful specimen of the decorated Gothic, or English style, and is covered with tracery, panels, and other architectural enrichments. On the south are three large windows divided by five upright mullions of delicate masonry. The buttresses display a variety of ornaments; and a highly finished open-work parapet ranges round the south and

east

east sides of the building*. The whole is composed of squared stones, and is in an excellent state of preservation.†

The interior is extremely affluent in those circumstances of embellishment which the nobles of a former period were taught to believe acceptable demonstrations of pious zeal. The principal apartment is fifty-eight feet long, twenty-five feet wide, and thirty-two feet high; and is furnished with numerous monuments of a splendid character. The grand entrance to the chapel is from the southern part of the church, through a kind of porch, or vestibule, highly ornamented with tracery, panels, niches, the armorial bearings of the Beauchamps, &c. The floors, which are three in number, and composed of black and white marble, ascend by one step each towards the altar screen. This spot is ornamented with a basso relievo, representing the Annunciation of the Virgin; and on each side is a shrine of delicate and elaborate workmanship. The east window is enriched with curious painted glass, containing, among other subjects, a portrait of the founder, kneeling before a desk and open book; and in the mouldings are introduced many wrought figures, intended for angels and saints.

The south side of the interior is highly worked. Beneath the three large and uniform windows which constitute the upper portion is a series of panels, tastefully designed and finely executed. In the central window are many paintings, containing various

* For many peculiarities in the exterior of this chapel see *Architectural Antiquities*, Vol. IV.

† It appears that this beautiful instance of the taste which prevailed in the time of the sixth Henry, experienced much injury in the 17th century. But Lady Katharine Leveson, a daughter of the Sir Robert Dudley mentioned in our notice of Stoneleigh, gave, at the recommendation of William Dugdale, of Blythe Hall, Esq. (afterwards Sir W. Dugdale) the sum of 50*l.* towards its repair during her life-time; and bequeathed 40*l.* per ann. "for the perpetual support and preservation of the monuments." The mayor of Warwick for the time being was appointed one of the trustees, and Sir W. Dugdale was, himself, the first coadjutor of the mayor.

ious religious allusions and family portraits. The western compartment is faced with a wooden screen, carved to correspond with the ornamented parts on the south. On different spots are xed desks and seats, embellished with carvings of the bear and riffin.

Nearly in the centre of this principal apartment of the chapel stands the monument of the founder, which has been truly pronounced inferior to none in England except that of Henry VII. in Westminster Abbey. This is an altar tomb of grey marble, and on the slab lies the figure of the Earl, in the proportions of life, composed of brass gilt. He is represented with the head uncovered, and resting on a helmet and crest. The hair is short, and the beard curled. The hands are lifted, but not united. The body is clad in plated armour, and at the feet are a griffin and a muzzled bear. Over the effigies is a hearse of brass hoops gilt; and at the upper ends of four of the poles which strengthen the hoops of the hearse are enamelled shields, pendant from oak leaves in quatrefoils, with the arms of Beauchamp, and other armorial bearings.

In very rich niches, on the sides and ends of the table part of the monument, are fourteen images of brass gilt, representing male and female branches of the mourning family. Beneath are their arms, enamelled on shields in starred quatrefoils; and between the images are small whole length figures of angels, holding inscribed scrolls. On the monument is, likewise, a pious and historical inscription relating to the deceased; and it is remarkable, that in various parts of this epitaph are inserted, without a due regard to propriety of punctuation, but it would seem as substitutes for the stops in ordinary use, the figure of a bear and the representation of a ragged staff.

Richard de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, whose remains lie beneath this splendid monumental fabric, was one of the most distinguished characters of the fifteenth century. He took in open battle the standard of Owen Glendower, when that hardy chieftain rebelled against Henry IV. He, likewise, gained great

honour in the battle of Shrewsbury, against the Percies. He fought with eminent success in the French wars of Henry V. and was named to the tutelage of Henry VI. till that minor sovereign should attain his sixteenth year. He died at the castle of Roan, in 1349, and his remains were deposited, according to his own desire, in a chest of stone before the altar, on the right hand of his father's tomb, in the church of St. Mary, until the intended chapel and monument were completed. It is said by Gough "that, about the middle of the 17th century, the floor of our Lady's chapel fell in, and discovered the body perfect and fresh; till, on the letting in of the air, it fell to decay. The ladies of Warwick made rings of the noble Earl's hair."

On the north side of the chapel is the highly embellished monument of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, who died 1588, and his countess. The effigies of the deceased possess much merit of execution, but the redundant decorations of their very costly monument are rendered unpleasingly glaring by paints of various colours. Near the tomb is a wooden tablet, on which are inscribed in gilt letters some elegiac verses, written on the countess by Gervas Clifton.

Not far distant is the monument of Ambrose Dudley, Earl of Warwick, who died 1589. His figure is represented in plated armour, lying on a mat rolled up. At the feet is a muzzled bear.

On an altar tomb, near the east end of the chapel, is a puerile effigy, in the coat and mantle of a child, with a double row of pearls on the head. At the feet is a bear chained. An epitaph of some length announces that here "resteth the body of the noble *Impe*, Robert of Duddeley, Baron of Denbigh, sonne of Robert Erle of Leicester, and nephew and heir unto Ambrose, Erle of Warwicke."

On a marble slab against the north wall is an inscription to the memory of Lady Katharine Leveson, whose liberal benefaction towards the repairs of this building has been noticed.

Besides this principal division there are other rooms connected with

with the chapel. Behind the altar is a narrow apartment, called the Library of John Rous, the antiquary. On the north side are an oratory and a confessional, both lifted considerably above the level of the chapel flooring. The confessional is ascended by five steps, much worn; and contains some fine workmanship, and many features which allude, in an interesting manner, to the fanciful customs of the old religion. Separated from the chapel by an open screen, are apartments probably designed for some of the numerous persons retained in support of the domestic dignity of former Earls of Warwick.

The *Church*, dedicated to *St. Nicholas*, is a respectable stone building, but by no means conspicuous for beauty. At the west end is a low spire springing from a square tower, on one face of which is a large canopied niche, now vacant. The interior is of limited proportions.

The *Court-house*, or *Town-hall*, is a creditable edifice on the south side of the High Street, which was rebuilt in its present form shortly after the fire of 1694.

The *County-hall* is a spacious and ornamental structure, erected in the 31st of George II. by Mr. Hiorne, an architect of considerable judgment, who was a native of Warwick. The front is of a chaste and dignified character; the interior is judiciously arranged, and sufficiently spacious.

The *Market-house* is a substantial building, composed of stone, with a piazza for the accommodation of traders.

A county town possesses some marked advantages, but these are attended with an alloy of the most painful description. It is the central point to which the flagitious are conducted, and the building for the reception of vice is a melancholy addition to the structures erected for public use. The *County Gaol* adjoins the great hall, and is an extensive and well-designed modern fabric. In the disposal of the interior due regard has been paid to the few comforts necessary for the forlorn tenants, and the stone front of the building is suitably plain and weighty. The *Bridewell*

is, likewise, a spacious and modern structure, of a very judicious character.

Over the west gate, which stands at one extremity of the principal street of Warwick, is a chapel dedicated to St. James. This, under the title of a church, was united to the church of St. Mary, by Roger Earl of Warwick, in the reign of Henry I. and the advowson was bestowed, in the 6th of Richard II. on the gild * of St. George, by which fraternity was constructed, on the north side of the chapel, a residence for four priests, and a hall, probably intended for their own periodical meetings. After the dissolution of such societies, in the reign of Henry VIII. this building was acquired by Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester; who, in the 28th of Queen Elizabeth, founded here an hospital for twelve impotent men, each not possessing means to the amount of 5*l.* *per ann.* and one master, a professor of divinity. For the support of this foundation the Earl was empowered to bestow property, not exceeding the annual amount of 200*l.* In consequence of the great increase in the value of land, the revenues of this charity have experienced so considerable an augmentation that, in the year 1811, each brother, or almsman, obtained for his quota of the annual produce upwards of 131*l.* besides lodging, some articles of raiment, and other advantages. The master, at the same time, received only 50*l.* *per ann.* according to a prescriptive clause in the original act of endowment. To remedy so undesirable a position of affairs, an Act of Parliament was obtained in 1813, under the direction of which the number of brethren is progressively to be increased to twenty-two. Each of the fresh pensioners, and each of the whole brotherhood ultimately, to have an allowance of 80*l.* *per ann.*; and, as it was the intention of the founder for the master to enjoy, as nearly as might be,

one

* There were originally two gilds in Warwick; the one in honour of the Holy Trinity and the Blessed Virgin, and the other of St. George the Martyr. Both were founded in the 6th of Richard II. and they appear to have shortly joined their interests.

one quarter of the yearly produce of the estates, his salary was, by the same act, permitted to rise to 400*l. per ann.* as the death of existing almsmen allowed the progress of the new order of affairs in the charity. It is directed by the Earl of Leicester that no person shall be preferred to any place or room in the hospital, unless born in the counties of Warwick or Gloucester, "or there dwelling and abiding by the space of four or five years at least." The Earl, likewise, ordered a preference to be shewn to soldiers, disabled and decayed in the service of their country. In order to extend the benefit of this productive institution to a meritorious and suffering class of military, aged and poor subalterns on half-pay, the limitation, in regard to property, or means of support, was, by the act of 1813, judiciously altered to 50*l.* yearly. The heir general of Robert Earl of Leicester is John Shelley Sidney, of Penshurst Place, in Kent, Esq. and the present master of the hospital is the Rev. John Kendall. Each of the almsmen wears a woollen cloak, on which is placed, as a badge, the bear and ragged staff, surmounted by a coronet.

The buildings consist of lodgings and a public kitchen for the brethren, ranged in a quadrangular form; a chapel constructed over the ancient gate of entrance to the town; and the hall formerly appertaining to the gild. The chapel is a decent structure, which relies for interest on the venerable simplicity of its architectural character. The hall is a rude building, originally paved with glazed tiles, and now used as a receptacle for coals. At one end is an inscription on the wall, recording that King James I. was entertained in this room by Sir Fulk Grevil, on the 4th of September, 1617.

The east gate, situate at the other extremity of the principal street, supports the small church of St. Peter. This church was built in the reign of Henry VI. and was new-cased some few years back, under the direction of one of the Bionnes. But, in the recent alterations, too many freedoms have been taken with the original character of the edifice, and common-place embellishments have been bestowed with an unsparing hand. The church
has

has long been disused as a place of religious worship, and is now constituted a room of tuition for many poor children of this borough, who are instructed and cloathed in consequence of several charitable bequests for those purposes. A small dwelling for the master adjoins the church, and is partly built on a portion of the ancient wall of the town.

The principal streets of Warwick are now handsomely paved with Yorkshire flag stone. This work was begun by subscription in 1811, and was completed, at the expense of 4649*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.* in 1812. The same streets are also sufficiently lighted.

The market is weekly, and appears to have been for some time increasing in trade and repute. The fairs are twelve in number, and are well attended by dealers in cattle. The canal recently completed, adds much to the commercial facilities of the place. A commodious wharf is constructed at the head of the canal; and, among the advantages derived from this navigable cut, it may be observed that coal is now delivered in the town at the charge of one shilling per hundred. Manufactures are here cultivated to some extent, and are carried on with much spirit. From four to five hundred persons are constantly employed in combing and spinning long wool, and in other branches relating to the preparation of worsted for the hosiery trade. The weaving of calicoes, and other cotton goods, from yarn spun at Manchester, affords employment to nearly as many persons. There is, also, a mill on the river Avon, at the distance of one mile and a half from the town, for spinning cotton yarns. All these manufactures have been recently introduced.

Warwick sent members to Parliament *ab origine*, and now returns two representatives, who are chosen by the inhabitants paying scot and lot. The mayor is the returning officer. The corporation consists of a mayor, recorder, twelve brethren, or aldermen, twenty-four common council, a town clerk, &c.

There are meeting houses for the society of Friends, or Quakers; the Independents; the Presbyterians; the Methodists; and the Anabaptists.

Annual races take place on a convenient plot of ground that lies to the west of the town, and there is a small but neat play house, rebuilt in its present form about twelve years back.

If we were to enumerate, as natives of Warwick entitled to biographical notice, the many distinguished persons born in its protecting castle, the list would be indeed extensive, and the page of our narration would be intermingled with some of the most shining passages in national story. But, while we confine our attention to the humbler walks of this ancient town, we are constrained to rest contented with the names of two scholars, who both flourished in centuries far back.

The benedictine monk termed *Walter of Coventry*, was born at Warwick, of respectable parents, about the middle of the 12th century. He studied at Oxford, and afterwards settled in the city from which he acquired a distinctive appellation. His chief works are on English history, from the earliest period to his own time.

John Rous, the Warwick antiquary, descended from a family long resident at Brinklow, in this county. His father was Geoffrey Rous, of Warwick. After studying at Oxford, the future antiquary became a chantry priest at Guy's Cliff, on the foundation of Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick. In this most eligible retirement he composed several works, the chief of which related to the antiquities of his native county. He had the opportunity of consulting many manuscripts preserved in monastic establishments; but he copied from these with too implicit and liberal a hand, and appears to have been studious to aggrandize the subject on which he wrote by a multiplication of pompous early legends, rather than to illustrate it by comparison and investigation. He died at Guy's Cliff, in 1491, and was buried in St. Mary's church, Warwick. His writings he bequeathed to that collegiate church, having caused to be erected for their reception a library over the south porch. But they were dispersed before the time of Sir William Dugdale; and the only works by Rous, to which that indefatigable antiquary

could gain access were "A Roll of the Earls of Warwick, wherein, besides a brief history relating to each of them, their pictures and arms are with much curiosity depicted; and a Chronicle of the Kings of England, reaching down to his own time." Both these productions have been printed by Hearne.

According to the abstract of answers, &c. to the population act for 1811, the number of houses and inhabitants in the Borough of Warwick is as follows:—houses inhabited, 1251. Houses uninhabited, 21. Houses now building, 11. Total of persons, 6497.

WARWICK CASTLE is built on a rock, and the river Avon flows at its base. This stupendous structure is raised on the south-east of the town; from which, however, it is sufficiently detached for the purpose of dignified retirement.

There is not any record concerning the precise era at which a fortified building was founded on this spot. It is, however, clear, that the foundation took place before the Norman Conquest; and it is probable that Ethelfleda, the daughter of King Alfred, first constructed here a strong hold, but of a gloomy and contracted character. Her melancholy, though secure *dungeon*, is believed to have occupied an artificial mount yet remaining on the west, near the bank of the Avon. The fortress was constituted for some time the residence of the Vicecomites, or Lieutenants of the Earls of Mercia; and Turchill (styled by the Normans Turchill de Warwick) who was Vicecomes at the time of the Conquest, was directed by William I. to add considerably to the extent and strength of the fortifications. It appears that a church dedicated to the honour of All Saints was founded within the limits of the castle at an early period; but this building was united to the collegiate church of St. Mary, in 1125.

It is desirable to trace, as to outlines, the chief historical events immediately connected with the castle, during the union of its fortunes with those of the Earls of Warwick, through the lines of Newburgh, Beauchamp, Nevil, Plantagenet, and Dudley.

To the family of the present noble Earl. In the time of Roger de Newburgh, second Earl of Warwick, this castle appears to have been a place of much strength and consideration. Earl Roger died in 1153, and the castle was at that period garrisoned by soldiers on the side of King Stephen; but, on the advance of Prince Henry (afterwards Henry II.) the Earl's widow delivered to him the fortress. William de Newburgh, the third Earl, lived here in great splendour, and in the 20th of Henry II. procured an addition of two knights "to the five knights and ten serjeants who before kept guard in the mote of Warwick Castle." *

In the reign of Henry III. the extraordinary strength of this building was alledged as a reason for particularly prohibiting the widowed Countess of Warwick from remarrying with any other than a person approved by the king. In the furious contests which afflicted the latter years of the third Henry, Warwick castle, almost impregnable to open assault, fell the victim of a want of caution. The rebels were stationed at Kenilworth, in great power. William Mauduit, the then Earl, neglected to keep due guard, though danger was so near and threatening. His fortress was surprised, and all the building, except the towers, levelled with the ground, while himself and his Countess were carried prisoners to Kenilworth. The family of Beauchamp shortly succeeded to the Earldom. By Thomas de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, in the reign of Edward III. the injuries sustained by the castle-buildings in the time of Earl Mauduit were sufficiently repaired. He rebuilt the walls; added strong gates; and fortified the gateways with embattled towers. Thomas de Beauchamp, his son and successor, passed a great portion of his life in exile from the court; and we have already observed that he dedicated much of this calm season to architectural pursuits. By him was built a tower, to be shortly noticed, at the north-east corner of the castle; on which he bestowed the name of Guy's Tower. The Nexil family acceded to the Earldom of Warwick in

P 2

consequence.

* House of Greville, p. 19; following Mag. Rot. 20 Hen. II. &c.

consequence of a marriage between Richard Nevil, son and heir of the Earl of Salisbury, and Anne, daughter of Richard Beauchamp. This potent Earl, whose habitual splendour is recorded in the page of national history, maintained, in his Warwickshire Castle, a sumptuous style of living suited to his political consequence and the greatness of his resources.

George, Duke of Clarence, who had married the daughter of this enterprising and restless noble, was created Earl of Warwick by his brother, King Edward IV. He chiefly resided at Warwick Castle, after this creation; and added much to the strength and beauty of its works. The Dudley family succeeded to the Plantagenets; and, on the failure of that line, the title was revived by James I. in the person of Robert Lord Rich, in whose posterity it continued till the year 1759. But the same king had previously granted the castle and attached grounds to Sir Fulke Greville, afterwards Lord Brooke. When this accomplished person took possession of the castle it was in a ruinous condition, having been used for some time as a county gaol. But he expended a large sum (20,000*l.* according to Dugdale) in restoring the buildings, and arranging the dependant grounds. To his care and good taste it is evident that the structure is indebted for much of the excellent preservation in which even its most ancient parts are now seen. The unfortunate activity of Robert Lord Brooke in the civil war of the seventeenth century has already met with observation. By his direction the castle was placed in a state of garrison on the Parliamentary side. Various scenes of calamity ensued, among which was a siege, that commenced on the 7th of August, 1642, and terminated in the discomfiture of the assailants on the 23d of the same month.

Francis Lord Brooke was created Earl Brooke of Warwick Castle, in 1746, and Earl of Warwick in 1759. In both these honours he was succeeded, in 1773, by George, his eldest son, the present Earl.

The approach to Warwick Castle is calculated to produce the most striking effect. A broad and winding path, cut through the

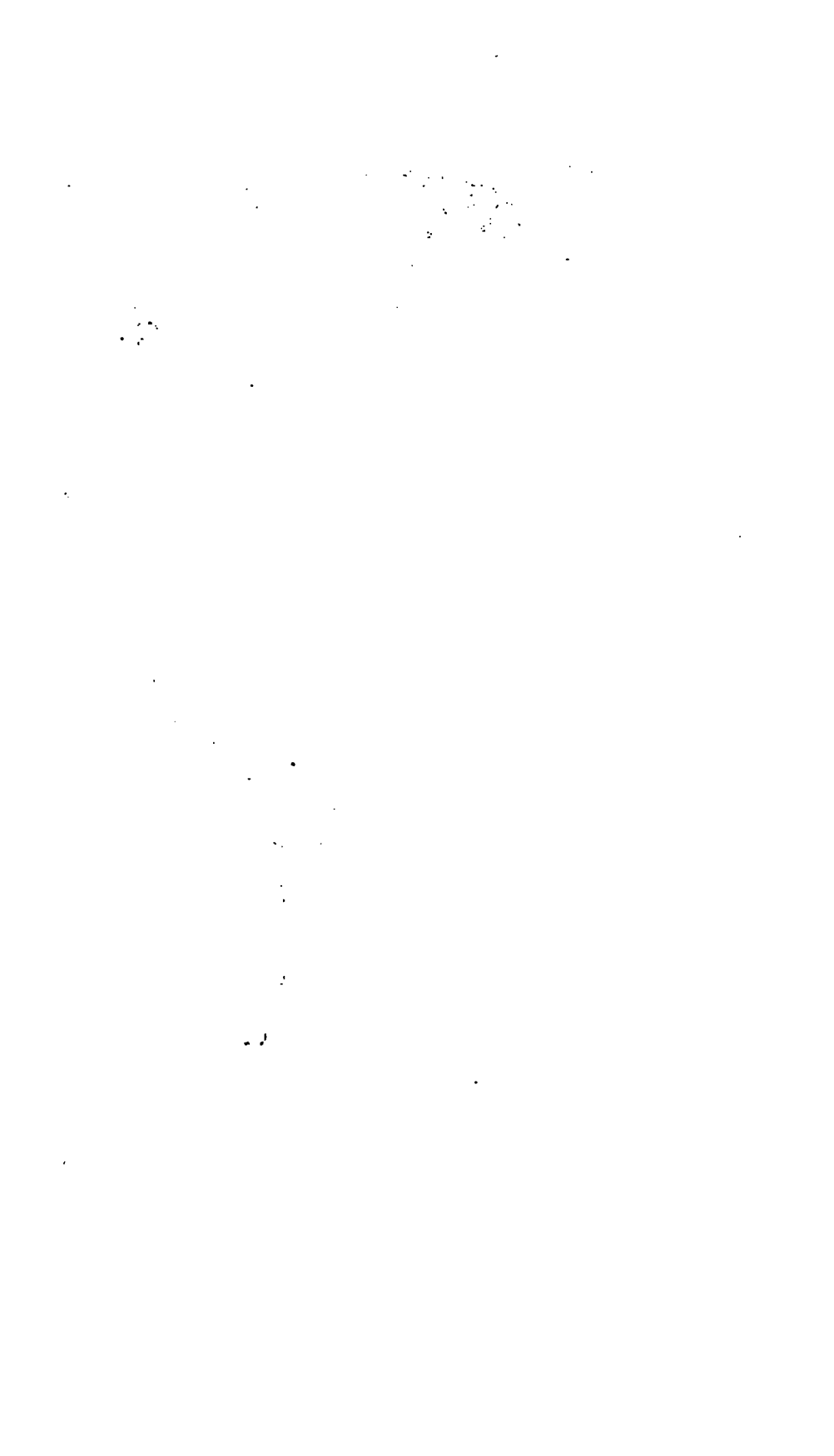
solid



WARWICK CASTLE.
Warwickshire.

See also the view of England & Wales.

Engraved by Messrs. J. & J. Smith, of the City of London.



solid rock, confines the eye and exercises the fancy till a hundred long yards are trodden over, with increasing expectation. A method of advance so quiet and severe prepares the mind for a spectacle of unusual character; and unusually grand is, indeed, the object submitted to view! As we draw towards the extent of this rocky path, three lofty and massive towers rise progressively to the gaze; and, on proceeding a few steps farther, they stand ranged in an embattled line unspeakably august and commanding. On the left is the Tower termed Caesar's, an elevation concerning the date of which no trace remains in published or private record. The mode of construction is somewhat rude, and possesses many singularities. Jutting from one side of this tower is an embattled turret of stone, where imagination may place the herald at arms, demanding, in a long-past century, the name and purpose of those so hardy as to advance unbidden. To the right is the tower named after the fauciful champion of the castle, the redoubted Guy. This part of the structure is upwards of one hundred feet in height, and was built by Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, in the latter part of the 14th century*. The entrance is flanked by embattled walls, richly cloathed with ivy; and the deep moat, now dry in security, and containing at its base a velvety path, is lined with various shrubs, and ornamented with some trees of a vigorous and noble growth.

The disused moat is crossed by a stone bridge, and the entrance is by double machiolated towers, through a series of passages once big with multiplied dangers for the intruder. In the great court, to which the visitor passes, the display is truly magnificent. The area is now fertile in soft and well-cultivated green sward; but, spread around, are viewed the mighty remains of fortifications raised in turbulent ages by mingled ferocity and grandeur. The relics are perfect in outline, and no battlement exhibits the havoc of time, while the hand of tasteful domestic

P 3

habit

* It was completed in 1394, at the cost of 395*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.*

habit has spread a softness over the whole, productive of most grateful relief. We see with pleasure the ivy bestow pictorial mellowness on parapets and turrets, which must have been only terrifically ragged when manned with warriors in steel, and fresh in early masonry; and broad Gothic windows supplant, with conspicuous felicity, the cheerless single light and fatal loop-hole.

The habitable part of this immense structure lies to the left of the great court; and in the progressive ameliorations of feature effected in later ages every desirable attention has been paid to consistency of character. At the western, or more retired, part of the area is the artificial mount, a vast elevation surmounted by a portion of ancient fortified building. The walls which range round those divisions of the court not occupied by the residence, are guarded by ramparts; and open flights of stone steps lead to various turrets, and form, with many passages, a ready line of communication through the whole of the fortress. A grand face of the building is displayed towards the river; and here the rock, which affords a foundation to the pile, rises perpendicularly to a considerable height before the stone-work of the superstructure commences. This front has all the irregularity usual in buildings constructed with a view to security as well as baronial grandeur. Even this want of uniformity is estimable, when it is considered as a characteristic of antiquity. The windows have experienced some alteration under the notice of the present Earl, and much good taste has been evinced in every particular.

The interior of this august fabric surpasses the expectation raised by a view of its outward features; for with the ponderous towers, and ramparts of stone, we associate only ideas of chivalric hardihood and unpolished baronial pride. But domestic elegance and a warm love of the arts have combined, in recent periods, to arrange and decorate the halls; yet every effort at fresh and more gratifying modes of disposal has been carefully made allusive to the antique castellated outlines of the edifice.

The grand suite of apartments extend in a right line three hundred and thirty-three feet, and are furnished in a chaste but magnificent taste.

The Hall is a noble room, sixty-two feet long, and thirty-seven feet wide, paved with black and white stone, and wainscotted. Various weapons and pieces of armour, interspersed with antlers, are attached to the sides. Piled round the wide fire-place are logs of wood, in attention to the usage of the ancient baron's household, in which establishment convenience was ever studied in preference to delicacy. But the hall is, properly, the only apartment devoted to so strict a *keeping* of manners. The sides of

The Ante Chamber

are panelled, and edged with gilt moulding. The floor is of polished oak. This room is chiefly embellished by a whole length portrait of a Lady Brooke, with a boy by her knee. Painter unknown.

The Cedar Drawing Room

is of large proportions; the floor is of polished oak, and the sides lined with cedar, well carved. The ceiling is highly ornamented; and the furniture massy, and temperately superb. In this apartment are several Etruscan vases, and the following paintings: Ferdinand of Toledo, Duke of Alva, half length; Charles I. half length; Lucy, Countess of Carlisle, whole length; Marquis of Montrose, half length: the whole of these portraits are by Vanddyck; as is also supposed to be a half length of Martin Ryckaert, the painter. Edward Wortley Montague, half length, by Romney; Circe, by Guido.

The Gilt Room

is richly embellished, and contains a fine Etruscan vase, and the following among other pictures: Prince Rupert, whole length,

P 4

supposed

supposed by Vandyck; Robert Rich, Earl of Warwick, a whole length, by Vandyck; IGNATIUS LOYOLA, a whole length, by Rubens; Thomas, Earl of Arundel, half length, by Rubens; Nicholas Machiavel, a copy by Vandyck from Titian; Davila the historian, by Vandyck.

The State Bed Chamber

is hung with curious tapestry, made at Brussels, in 1604. The costly bed furniture belonged to Queen Anne, and was given to the late Earl of Warwick by his present majesty. Among numerous paintings in this apartment and the dressing room, the following are, perhaps, the most interesting: Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, an original by Zuccherò; Margaret, Duchess of Parma, a whole length, by Titian; Mary Bullen, Governess to Queen Elizabeth, small half length, by Holbein; Anne Bullen, half length, by Holbein; A Boy with a Racquet and Ball, by P. Veronese; Henry IV. of France, a small whole length; Two old Heads reading, a sketch by Rubens; A Sea Storm, by Vanderwerf.—Here are also some fine antique vases.

In the *Dining* and *Breakfast Rooms* are several good portraits, among which must be noticed that of the accomplished Sir Fulke Grevil, Lord Brooke.

The windows of each room in the grand suite command diversified and lovely prospects. To the right the river Avon winds through a long expanse of decorated park scenery. On the left various objects interrupt the view, but all are consonant and picturesque. Here is seen the ancient bridge, its central arch now removed; a waterfall, whose ceaseless rushing is heard, as distant murmurs, through every apartment on the south; beyond appears the handsome stone bridge recently thrown across the Avon;* and, beetling from the castle confines, is the *Mill* belonging

*The new bridge, an ornamental structure, consisting of one spacious arch, was erected, chiefly at the expense of the present Earl of Warwick, under the sanction of an act of Parliament obtained in 1788.

belonging to the Earl; that ancient appendage to the establishment of the English baron.

In a gallery leading to the chapel is a large picture of Charles I. on horseback, attended by a person holding his helmet, intended either for Mons. de St. Antoine, or the Duke of Epergon; and in other passages are several pictures of much interest. In the gallery of armour is a fine collection of old English mail. The chapel is spacious, and of a sedate and decorous character.

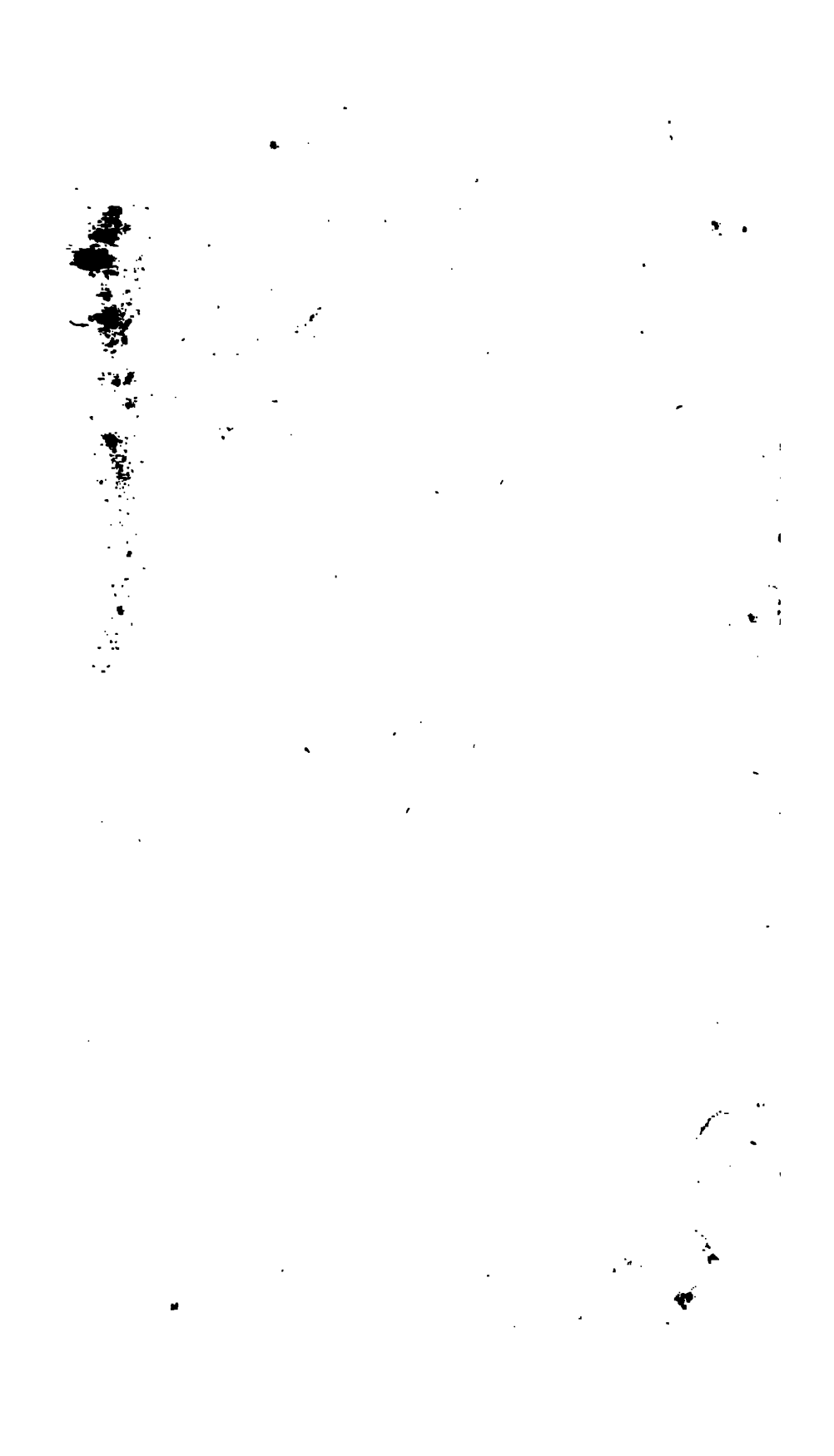
The park attached to this noble castle is very extensive, and is finely adorned by wood and water. The garden grounds, or home domain, are arranged with the exquisite order of taste that has its basis in simplicity. A broad gravel walk, of devious progress, conducts through these grounds, and is embowered by a rich variety of evergreen foliage. Different vistas, designed with great judgment, afford fine views of the castle, the windings of the Avon, and the prime features of the surrounding country. In a green-house, erected for the purpose, is repositied a very large *antique vase*, presented to the Earl of Warwick by the late Sir William Hamilton. This magnificent antique is composed of white marble, and is of a circular form. The decorations consist of Bacchanalian emblems, finely executed; and from the body of the vase proceed two handles, formed of interwoven vine branches. The basin is calculated to hold one hundred and sixty-three gallons.

The lofty artificial mount on the west of the castle is now ascended by a spiral path, skirted by protecting trees and shrubs. At an advanced point of the ascent is a turret, or tower, approached by stone steps; but on the summit of the vast elevation supposed to have been formerly crowned with the gloomy residence of the Lady of the Mercians, a large fir waves its sober branches in pensive, but grateful triumph.

In one of the rooms attached to Cæsar's Tower are still preserved the sword, shield, helmet, &c. ascribed to the legendary champion, Guy. The reader will scarcely need to be informed that
this

this personage is reported to have been an Earl of Warwick who fought with, and slew, a gigantic Dane, by name Colebrand. After this duel he is said to have retired to a hermitage on the secluded and romantic spot since termed *Guy's Cliff*, where he died and was buried. A shadowy ancestor, so renowned as Guy, was a valuable boast to the Earls of Warwick, during the dark ages in which the greater part of society was enamoured of the marvellous; and they sedulously promulgated his fame, by causing his exploits to be worked in tapestry; by adopting his Christian name; and by calling after him a tower of their castle. As the ages improved in understanding, the story of Guy sank towards disregard; but Sir William Dugdale strangely sullied a page of his excellent history of Warwickshire by restoring the fable to serious consideration. The duel is said to have taken place in the year 926; but it is not mentioned by any earlier writer than Giraldus Cambrensis, who flourished in the latter part of the twelfth century. From many parts of the legend it, indeed, appears to have been invented after the Norman Conquest; or, rather, a floating tradition respecting some Saxon champion was then appropriated to a fanciful precursor of the Earls of Warwick, in compliment to those ambitious and rising nobles.

In the neighbourhood of the town of Warwick, on the north, stood the *Priory of St. Sepulchre*, a building founded for canons regular by Henry de Newburgh, Earl of Warwick, in the reign of Henry I. The canons on this foundation professedly imitated those of the church of the holy sepulchre in Jerusalem. But religious houses of this description do not appear to have ever attained great popularity in England. When the survey was taken in the 26th of Henry VIII. the possessions of this monastery were rated at no more than 16*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.* above all reprises. In the 38th year of Henry VIII. the site of the building, and the adjacent lands, were granted to Thomas Hawkins, alias Fisher, who was the son of a person named Hawkins, that sold fish by retail at the Market Cross in Warwick. Though of so humble an origin,





See the Reader of the 17th

GUY'S CLIFF,

Engraving from a drawing by J. M. Giff

origin, Mr. Hawkins filled several offices of consequence with distinguished credit; and his opportunities enabled him to procure a large share of the land appertaining to dissolved religious houses. By him was erected, early in the reign of Elizabeth, the present spacious and eligible residence, to which he gave the name of *Hawk's Nest*! The estate has been for nearly a century in the possession of the *Wise* family; but the mansion is now tenanted by W. Welby, Esq. The attached pleasure-grounds are highly ornamental to the northern border of the town.

At *BARNFORD*, on the southern bank of the Avon, is the seat of Charles Mills, Esq. M. P. for the Borough of Warwick. This desirable residence commands prospects eminently rich and various.

GUY'S CLIFF,* the romantic and interesting seat of Bertie Greathead, Esq. is about one mile and a half from Warwick, on the north-east. The river Avon here winds through most attractive meads; and, on its western bank, a combination of rock and wood, singularly picturesque, invited, at an early period, the reveries of superstitious seclusion and poetical fancy. It is supposed that there was here an oratory, and a cell for a hermit, in the Saxon times; and it is certain that a hermit dwelt in this lovely recess in the reigns of Edward III. and Henry IV. This is the spot to which the fantastical hero, Guy, is said to have retired after his duel with the Danish Colebrand; and here his neglected Countess, the fair Felicia, is reported to have interred his remains. It appears that King Henry V. visited Guy's Cliff, and was so well pleased with its natural beauties, and, perhaps, so much interested by the wild legend connected with the place, that he determined to found a chantry for two priests. But warlike undertakings, and an early death, prevented the performance of this, among many other pious and benevolent intentions ascribed to the heroic Henry. Such a chantry was, however,
founded

* This residence is situated in Knightlow Hundred, but is noticed in the present page, as its history is so immediately blended with the annals of Warwick Castle.

founded in the first year of Henry VI. by Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick; but the chapel, (dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen,) and some contiguous buildings, were not completed till after the Earl's decease. We have observed that John Rous, the antiquary, resided in this delectable retreat, as a chantry priest. An asylum more desirable for a student can scarcely be imagined. Leland pronounced the dwelling at Guy's Cliff "a house of pleasure, a place meet for the muses!"

About the middle of the eighteenth century this estate passed to the late Mr. Greathead, who built here a residence, but rather on a contracted scale. Large and eligible additions have been made by his son, the present Bertie Greathead, Esq. and the mansion is now respectable in size and character, as well as eminent for charms of situation. The local beauties of this retreat would seem calculated to inspire a love of the arts; and genius illumined the breast of the youthful heir to the domain with one of her brightest rays. Mr. Bertie Greathead, the only son of the present proprietor, evinced even in boyhood an ardent taste for the pictorial art; and the walls of the principal rooms are covered with the efforts of his pencil. The pieces most highly finished are portraits; several of which would do credit to the best esteemed artists of the present day. The style is rich and glowing, the handling free, and the character strongly marked. There are also many historical pieces of great merit; and some very early historical studies, which are replete with indications of strong genius and an unusual precocity of judgment. We regret to say that this highly-gifted young man is no more! Descended from a distinguished family,* and heir to great affluence, his passion for the arts induced him to decline the luxurious indolence too frequent with his rank, and he visited France during the short peace which tempted many to enter that country, for the purpose of improving his judgment in his favourite pursuit. Napoleon treated his talents with liberal attention; and, when
some

* The mother of the present Mr. Greathead was a daughter of the Duke of Ancaster.

some other persons were detained as prisoners, permitted him to retire to Italy. But he was there briefly seized with a fever, under the pressure of which he expired in his 23d year.

The grounds attached to this residence are not extensive, but they abound in natural beauties, and are disposed with much taste. The rock on which the house and chapel are built, presents, towards the Avon, a rugged and varied face most fertile of the picturesque; and, perhaps, this portion of the Cliff acquires a transient and mysterious charm from its connexion with antient poesy. Here is shewn a cave, devoutly believed by neighbouring peasants to be that which Guy "hewed with his own hands," and in which he lived

"Like a Palmer poore."

The chapel founded by Richard Beauchamp is a plain, substantial edifice, in good repair, but otherwise treated with little ceremony. The founder caused to be carved, from the solid rock on which this chapel abuts, a rude statue of the famous Earl Guy, about eight feet in height. It would appear, from a print in Dugdale, that this figure was well preserved in the seventeenth century, but it is now much mutilated. The right hand formerly sustained a drawn sword, but both sword and arm have now disappeared. The hand of the shield-arm is also lost. The statue was likewise deficient in a leg; but a new one was bestowed, a few years back, by a female statuary of rank and deserved celebrity, while on a visit at the Cliff.

The capacious stables, cellars, and out-offices of Guy's Cliff House, are all formed by excavations in the solid rock.

About half a mile from Guy's Cliff is BLACKLOW-HILL, rendered memorable by the summary execution of Piers Gaveston. This assuming favourite of Edward II. was arrested at Scarborough, by a faction composed of many of the ancient nobles. It was intended to grant him an interview with the king, then at Wallingford; but on his way thither he was seized at Dedding-

ton,* by Guy Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, whom he had branded with the epithet of *the black hound of Arden*, and was hurried to Blacklow-Hill, where his head was stricken off. On a part of the rocky hill near the top is the following ancient inscription :

P. GAVESTON, EARL OF CORNWALL,
BEHEADED HERE + 1311.

At CHESTERTON there are, on the Roman Foss Way, the remains of a spacious castrametation ; and that this was Roman "appears evident," says Gibson, "from three circumstances ;—first, the name of the place, which plainly comes from the Roman *Castrum* ; secondly, its nearness to the Roman Foss, upon which it is certain that, at convenient distances, places of entertainment were built for the reception of the armies in their march ; the third token is that, in the compass within which the Roman building is supposed to have stood, several old coins have been dugged up."† It is observable, that in the Itinerary of Richard of Cirencester, there is an omission of one station between Alcester (*Alauna*) and High Cross, (the presumed *Benona*.) In the commentary on this Itinerary, in the edition recently published by Mr. Hatcher, it is conjectured that this omission may safely be supplied by the place now under notice. Chesterton is about sixteen miles from the former station, and about twenty from the latter. Warwick is in a more direct line ; but the advantages offered by the Foss-way may be well supposed to have induced the deviation ; and we have already said that at Warwick there are not any traces of the Romans to be discovered.

The manor of Chesterton was long possessed by the family of Peito ; of which house was the Cardinal Peito, who had been Confessor to Queen Mary, and who was named Bishop of Salisbury, though the see was not then vacant, by Pope Paulus III, and was appointed legate by the same Pontiff. But Mary, who,

according

* See Beauties, &c. for Oxfordshire, p. 463.

† Bishop Gibson's Edition of Camden, p. 510.

according to Fuller, "though drenched, was not drowned in popish principles," forbade the landing of the Cardinal, which he "took so tenderly," that he retired to France, and died in the ensuing April.

At NEWBOLD-PACEY is the handsome residence of William Little, Esq.; and, in the parish of TANWORTH, is *Umberslade-Hall*, a seat belonging to Lady Archer. The Archer family resided on this spot so early as the reign of Henry II.; and, in the twenty-first of George II. Thomas Archer was created Lord Archer, Baron of Umberslade. His lordship was succeeded by his son, Andrew, who, dying in 1778, without male issue, the title became extinct.

THE HUNDRED OF BARLICHWAY

is situate to the west of that named by the town of Kington. The Roman road termed *Icknield*, or *Ryknild, Street*, enters this hundred on the south, and quits it in the neighbourhood of Ipsley. A minor road, constructed by the Romans, called the *Ridgeway* is distinguishable in many parts of the western border of this district.

Barlichway Hundred is subject to four divisions;—*Stratford*, *Snitterfield*, *Alcester*, and *Henley*.

STRATFORD DIVISION

comprises the *Town of Stratford-on-Avon*, and the following parishes and hamlets:—*Aston Cantlow*; *Bickmarsh* and *Little Dorsington*, (hamlet;); *Bidford*; *Billesley*; *Binton*; *Exhall*; *Haselor*; *Luddington* (hamlet;); *Oversley* (hamlet;); *Salford-Prior*; *Stratford*, old; *Temple Grafton*, and *Arden*; *Wixford*.

STRATFORD-ON-AVON, the town so interesting as the birth-place of our great national poet, and the chosen spot to which he retired

retired when competence allowed a freedom of choice, is situate near the south-west border of the county. It appears from ancient records, of an authentic description, that Stratford was a place of some note three centuries before the Norman Conquest. A monastery was founded here shortly after the conversion of the Saxons to the Christian faith; which stood, according to a tradition preserved by Leland, on the spot now occupied by the church. The town of Stratford was given to the bishopric of Worcester by Æthelard, viceroy of the Wiccians; and it continued to form a part of the possessions of that bishopric for many ages subsequent to the Conquest. In the Norman Survey Stratford is rated at fourteen hides and a half, and was then the property of St. Wolstan, Bishop of Worcester. At that time there was a church; a mill, value ten shillings *per ann.* and a thousand eels, &c. The value of the whole was estimated at 25*l.*

The town was much indebted, at an early period, to the patronage afforded by its mitred lords. John de Constantiis, the thirty-sixth Bishop of Worcester, (who, according to Godwin and several other writers, was consecrated in this town in 1196,) procured, in the seventh of Richard I. a charter for a weekly market on the Thursday; and Walter Grey, a succeeding bishop, obtained, in the sixteenth of King John, a charter for an annual fair, to commence on the eve of the Holy Trinity, and to continue for the two succeeding days. William de Bleys, the fortieth bishop, obtained a charter for another annual fair, to be kept on the eve of St. Augustin, and two following days. A charter for a third annual fair, to be holden on the eve of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, and two subsequent days, was procured by Walter de Cantalupe, Bishop of Worcester, in the twenty-fourth of King Henry III. And, in the fifty-third of the same king, Bishop Godfrey obtained a charter for a fourth fair, to be kept on Holy Thursday and the two following days.

It



STRATFORD UPON AVON,
Warwickshire.

Engraved by Thomas Sturt & Robert Dingley, Architects.

Designed by Thomas Sturt & Robert Dingley, Architects.

For the Society of the Friends of the Arts, &c.



It appears that the bishops had a park here,* and their attention to the interests of the town continued to be displayed on every possible opportunity. Walter de Maydenstone, consecrated bishop in 1313, procured, in the same year, a charter for a new fair, to begin on the eve of St. Peter and Paul, and to last fifteen days. These numerous periodical marts must have conducted much to the commercial importance of the place; and, as the buildings increased, judicious steps were taken to add to the convenience of the streets. In the fifth of Edward III. Robert de Stratford, rector of the church, procured a patent to take toll for four years on sundry vendible commodities brought for sale, to assist in defraying the expense of paving the principal ways. The first grant being found insufficient, the term for taking toll was twice renewed; and it appears that the paving was then satisfactorily completed.

In the third of Edward VI. the Bishop of Worcester exchanged the manor of Stratford with John Dudley, Earl of Warwick, and afterwards Duke of Northumberland, for lands in Worcestershire. After various transmissions the manorial rights were conveyed by King Charles II. to the Earl of Dorset and Middlesex, whose descendant, the Duke of Dorset, is now lord of the manor and patron of the vicarage.

In the 36th and 37th of Queen Elizabeth, Stratford experienced two dreadful fires, which consumed 200 dwelling houses, and much other valuable property. On the 9th of July, 1614, a third fire occurred, which, in less than two hours, destroyed fifty-four dwelling houses, and produced great distress to the inhabitants.

The civil war of the 17th century forms an epoch of importance in the history of all the principal towns of this county. In
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* In 1280, "Giffard, Bishop of Worcester, sent his injunctions to the Deans of Stratford, Warwick, Hampton, Blockley, and Stow, solemnly to excommunicate all those that had broke his park and stole his deer." *Dug. War.* p. 683.—From this anecdote we learn that deer-stealing was practised, in the neighbourhood of Stratford, at a very early period.

1642-3 a party of the royalists was stationed at Stratford, but was driven out of the town by superior number of the Parliamentarians, conducted by Lord Brooke, after a short skirmish, in which two cavaliers fell. By command of the Parliamentary leaders, one arch of the great bridge was broken down, to prevent the incursions of their opponents.

But the royalists soon approached in great strength; and Stratford had the honour to afford a temporary residence, at this disturbed period, to Queen Henrietta Maria, who kept her court at New Place, the former abode of Shakspeare. The principal circumstances connected with this royal visit are thus noticed by Mr. Wheler, in his *History and Antiquities of the town of Stratford*:—"The Queen marched from Newark the 16th of June, 1643, and entered Stratford triumphantly, about the 22d of the same month, at the head of 3000 foot, and 1500 horse, with 150 waggons, and a train of artillery: here she was met by Prince Rupert, accompanied by a large body of troops. After sojourning at New Place about three weeks, the Queen went, on the 13th of July, to the plain of Kineton, under Edgell, to meet the King; and proceeded from thence with him to Oxford."^{*}

Until the early part of the eighteenth century polite literature was confined to so few, that the national love of Shakspeare (whose birth was so momentous an era in the fortunes of this town,) was not sufficiently ardent to lead numerous pilgrims to Stratford, for the purpose of poetical devotion. But with the spread of letters inevitably kept pace the progress of Shakspeare's fame. His readers must needs become innoxious idolists; and, for very many years, Stratford has witnessed throngs of visitors, anxious to tread the ground which Shakspeare's feet had pressed in boyhood; and to express, by mournful contemplation over the spot hallowed by his ashes, their gratitude for the banquet of intellectual joys afforded by his all but super-human talents. The public inclination to visit this favoured neighbourhood was promoted

* Wheler, p. 135.

moted by the man who, perhaps of all others, was best able to appreciate the poet's merits—the celebrated Garrick. In the year 1769, he instituted at Stratford a festival in honour of Shakspeare, which was termed *THE JUBILEE*. This interesting celebration commenced on the morning of Wednesday, Sept. 6, 1769, and terminated with the evening of the following Friday. An octagonal amphitheatre was erected on the Bankcroft, close to the river Avon, which was capable of holding more than 1000 persons. The interior was arranged with much taste; but the most gratifying ornament was a statue of Shakspeare, cast at the expense of Garrick, and afterwards presented by him to the Corporation, to be placed in a niche of the Town-hall. The amusements consisted of a public breakfast at the Town-hall; the performance of the Oratorio of Judith in the church of Stratford; a public ordinary at the amphitheatre; an assembly; a masquerade; the recitation, by Garrick, of an ode and oration in praise of Shakspeare; an exhibition of fire-works; and a *horse-race* for a silver cup. The town was illuminated; cannon were fired; and bands of music paraded the streets. The concourse of persons of rank to assist in this poetical festival was so great, that many were not able to procure beds in the town, and are said to have been constrained to sleep in their carriages. The weather was wet and unfavourable, but much good humour prevailed among the parties assembled. The whole of the festivities were afterwards subject to some satirical remarks from persons who were unfeigned admirers of the bard; and it must be confessed that, with the exception of the ode and oration, the performances were of a character quite common-place. But, perhaps, it would have been difficult to render ceremonies more classical sufficiently gratifying to popular apprehension; and it must never be forgotten that the festival was a national tribute, which exalted genius and high rank concurred in rendering respectful to the memory of the great poet.

The town of Stratford consists of twelve principal streets, and is of a cheerful, though not busy, aspect. It is well paved and

extremely cleanly. The different fires which occurred towards the close of the sixteenth, and early in the seventeenth century, have destroyed much of its ancient simplicity of domestic character; and this circumstance will be severely regretted by the literary examiner, who would extract a pleasure of exquisite relish from viewing the objects which imparted ideas to the opening mind of Shakspeare. There are, however, some specimens remaining of houses which must have been constructed anterior to the poet's time; and the visitor of taste will hope that they may remain, for ages, free from innovation. The buildings of later erection are in general neat and commodious; and many handsome and capacious dwellings occur in various parts of the town.

The most interesting of the ancient domestic structures is *the house in which Shakspeare was born*. This building is situate in Henley-street, and remained the property of the Hart family, descended from *Jone*, the sister of Shakspeare, until 1806, in which year they parted with it by sale. The premises, originally occupied as one dwelling, are now divided into two habitations; the one part being used as a butcher's shop, and the other as a public-house, known by the sign of the Swan and Maiden's Head. The outer walls of the whole were divided into panels by strong pieces of timber; but a brick front has been substituted in that part of the building now used as a public-house or inn; the antient form is yet preserved in the other half, or butcher's premises. The rooms are plain, somewhat gloomy, and of limited proportions; yet such a building may be readily supposed the abode of a trader of no contemptible description, in the sixteenth century.

From these lowly, but attractive tenements, the examiner passes to the site of *New Place*, the residence of Shakspeare when he had attained comparative affluence, and retired from the busy world of which he was so conspicuous an ornament, with a hope, unhappily futile, of sinking gently to grey hairs among objects rendered incalculably dear by the force of early associations.

tions. For the substance of the following particulars connected with the estimable building that occupied this spot, we are indebted to Mr. Wheeler's History of Stratford:—"New Place was originally erected by Sir Hugh Clopton, Knt. temp. Henry VII. and was probably the best house in the town, being called the *Great House* in Sir Hugh's will. The property afterwards passed to the Underhill family; and of that family it was purchased, in 1597, by Shakspeare, who, having repaired and modeled it to his own mind, changed the name to *New Place*, which appellation it retained till its demolition. Shakspeare, by his will, gave New Place, and certain lands in the parish of Stratford, which he had purchased of William and John Combe, in 1602, to his daughter, Mrs. Hall, for her life, and then to her daughter Elizabeth, afterwards Lady Barnard. By the surviving trustees of Lady Barnard this residence, with the before-mentioned land, (107 acres, situate in Stratford Field,) was sold, in 1675, to Sir Edward Walker, Knt. whose only child, Barbara, married Sir John Clopton, Knt. of Clopton, in this parish, and thus conveyed to him the whole of her paternal property. Sir John Clopton, by deed, gave New Place to his younger son, Sir Hugh Clopton, many years recorder of the borough of Stratford. By this gentleman New Place was not (as has been erroneously stated,) pulled down, but thoroughly repaired and beautified, and a modern front built to it. After the death of Sir Hugh, the estate (in 1753,) was sold by his son-in-law, Henry Talbot, Esq. to the Rev. Francis Gastrell, vicar of Frodsham, in Cheshire; who, if we may judge by his actions, felt no sort of pride or pleasure in this charming retirement. The celebrated mulberry-tree, planted by Shakspeare's hand, became first an object of his dislike, because it subjected him to answer the frequent importunities of travellers, whose zeal might prompt them to visit it. In an evil hour the sacrilegious priest ordered the tree, then remarkably large, and at its full growth, to be cut down, which was no sooner done than it was cleft to pieces for fire-wood. This act of barbarity took place in 1756. The

greater part of the wood was soon after purchased by Mr. Thomas Sharp, of Stratford, who, well knowing what value the world had set upon it, turned it much to his advantage, by converting every fragment into small boxes, goblets, &c.*

"Nor did the buildings of New Place long escape the destructive hand of Mr. Gastrell, who being compelled to pay the monthly assessments for the maintenance of the poor; (some of which he thought to avoid, because he resided part of the year at Lichfield, though his servants continued in his house at Stratford during his absence,) in the heat of his anger declared *that* house should never be assessed again; and, to give his imprecation due effect, the demolition of New Place soon followed; for, in 1759, he razed the building to the ground, disposed of the materials, and left Stratford amidst the rage and curses of its inhabitants.

"The site of New Place was afterwards added to the garden adjoining it, which, in 1775, was sold by Gastrell's widow; and it is now the property of Messrs. Battersbee and Morris, Bankers, of Stratford."

Opposite the site of Shakspeare's former residence is a house evidently as antient as the time of the poet, now a public-house, bearing the sign of the Falcon. It will be recollected that the Falcon was Shakspeare's crest of cognizance; and there appears little doubt but that the sign was assumed in compliment to the Shakspeare family. Mr. Ireland, in his picturesque views on the river Avon, has given, as anecdotes entitled to implicit reliance, many strange conjectures which appear to have originated entirely in his own ingenuity. Among these he states that this building was used as a public-house in the time of Shakspeare; and that it was then kept by Julius Shaw, who was a subscribing witness

* For the satisfaction of those possessed of such articles, purchased of Mr. Sharp, it may be observed that he voluntarily made, when on his death-bed, an affidavit, in the presence of the mayor, and one of the standing justices of the peace for this borough, stating that "he never had worked, sold, or substituted any other wood than what came from, and was part of, the said tree, as, or for, mulberry wood."

witness to Shakspeare's will, and who, according to Mr. Ireland, was by trade a carpenter and undertaker, and probably the person that buried the poet.* Ireland further observes, that "Shakspeare is said to have passed much time in this house, and to have had a strong partiality for the landlord, as well as for his liquor." We believe that Mr. Ireland had no sound authority for either of these assertions. Julius Shaw, the witness to Shakspeare's will, was bailiff of Stratford, in 1627. He certainly resided near New Place in 1618, but in extensive and very respectable premises, as in the churchwarden's assessment, copied in the vestry register, his house is rated at 6s. while New Place (the chief residence in the town,) was rated at no more than 8s.; and in this assessment he is styled *Mr. Julian Shawe*, a distinction of some consequence at that period.

There is much reason for doubting whether the house now termed the Falcon was a public-house during the life-time of Shakspeare. The original title-deeds of this property do not go farther back than the year 1640; between which period and 1681, when Joseph Phillips had many years owned the estate, none of the intermediate deeds take the least notice of it being a house of public entertainment. A *token*, issued in 1668 by this Joseph Phillips, bearing his name and the representation of a falcon in the centre, is now in the possession of Mr. Wheler, of Stratford. There is some ground for believing that Phillips was related to the family of Quiney, into which Shakspeare's youngest daughter married; and it would appear likely that Phillips, taking pride from his connexion, however remote, with a distinguished family, chose for his sign the Shakspeare crest, when he (as it would seem) first opened the house opposite to that once inhabited by the poet, as a place for the sale of liquor.†

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The

* Ireland's Avon, p. 503, et seq.

† We have deemed it curious to ascertain whether it is probable that Shakspeare was in the habit of repairing to this ancient house for convivial purposes; and we are indebted for information on the subject to a communication with which we have been favoured by the historian of Stratford.

The public buildings of Stratford are of a highly respectable character. The *Church* is dedicated to the Holy Trinity, and is a spacious and venerable structure. A church at Stratford is noticed in the record termed Domesday, but no portion of the present edifice has marks of a Saxon era. This structure is of a cruciform description, and is surmounted by a square tower, of rather low proportions. From the tower formerly proceeded a spire composed of wood, and only forty-two feet in height; but an octagonal spire of stone, more suitable to the dignity of the building, was erected in 1764. The different parts of the church were evidently built at various periods; but the greater portion appears, from the style of architecture, to have been constructed in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.

The approach to the building is formed in a manner peculiarly sedate and pleasing, through a long avenue of lime trees, the boughs of which are so intermingled as to produce a solemn, yet grateful shade. The church stands on the margin of the river Avon, and is embosomed in lofty and "time-honoured" elms. The interior is divided into a nave, two aisles, a transept, or cross aisle, and a chancel. The nave is regular and handsome, with six hexagonal pillars supporting pointed arches. Over a Gothic doorway, forming an entrance to this division of the church on the west, are three niches, formerly containing statues, above which is a fine window, reaching nearly to the width of the nave. At the eastern termination of the nave is now placed a good organ; and at this part were formerly two altars, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, and to St. Peter and Paul. The south aisle was rebuilt at the beginning of the fourteenth century, by John de Stratford, Bishop of Winchester; and at the east end he founded a chapel, dedicated to Thomas a Becket. The ascent to the altar is still remaining; and, in the south wall, are the mutilated remains of the three canopied recesses, or stalls, so often seen in ancient churches. At the east end of the north aisle was a chapel, dedicated to the Holy Virgin, which is entirely occupied by the monuments of the Clopton family. The chancel, a fine portion of the fabric, was erected, late in the fifteenth century,
by

by Dr. Thomas Balshall, warden of the college at Stratford. On each side are five large and uniform windows, formerly ornamented with painted glass. In the south wall again occur the three seats, or recesses, probably intended for the use of the priests and deacons; and, round the western end, is a range of stalls, the lower part of which is carved in a curious and very grotesque manner.

The monuments and inscriptions are numerous. Many of these will be inspected with interest; but the attention is chiefly excited by the spot sacred to the ashes of Shakspeare. All that is earthly of this incomparable writer lies on the north side of the chancel, beneath a stone on which is this inscription:

GOOD-FREND FOR JESVS SAKE FORBEARE,
TO DIGG THE DVST ENCLOSED HEARE;
BLESE BE YE. MAN YT. SPARES THES STONES,
AND CYRST BE HE YT. MOVES MY BONES.*

About five feet from the floor, on the north wall, is a monument, raised by the grateful tenderness of those who did not venture to apprehend that the works of such a man must embalm his memory through every succeeding age. Inarched between two Corinthian columns of black marble, with gilded bases and capitals, is here placed the half-length effigies of Shakspeare, a cushion before him, a pen in the right hand, and the left resting on a scroll. Above the entablature are his armorial bearings, (the tilting spear, point upwards; and the falcon supporting a spear for the crest.) Over the arms, at the pinnacle of the monument, is a death's head; and, on each side, is a boy-figure, in a sitting attitude, one holding a spade, and the other, whose eyes are closed, bearing with the left hand an inverted torch, and resting the right upon a chapless skull. The effigies of Shakspeare was originally coloured to resemble life; and its appearance, before touched by innovation, is thus described: "The eyes

* These lines are said to have been written by Shakspeare himself; but may we not rather suppose that the sentiment alone is his, and that the words in which it is conveyed were supplied by a reverential survivor?

eyes were of a light hazel, and the hair and beard auburn. The dress consisted of a scarlet doublet, over which was a loose black gown, without sleeves. The lower part of the cushion before him was of a crimson colour, and the upper part green, with gilt tassels."* In the year 1748 this monument was repaired, at the instance of a travelling company of players, who raised money for that purpose by performing in Stratford the play of Othello. In this repair the colours originally bestowed on the effigies were carefully restored by a linner residing in the town; but, in 1793, the bust, and figures above it, were painted white, at the request of Mr. Malone.†

Beneath the effigies are the following inscriptions:

JVDICIO PYLIVM, GENIO SOCRATEM, ARTE MARONEM,
TERRA TEGIT, POPVLVS MÆRET, OLYMPVS HABET.

STAY PASSENGER, WHY GOEST THOV BY SO FAST,
READ, IF THOV CANST, WHOM ENVIOVS DEATH HATH PLAST,
WITHIN THIS MONVMENT, SHAKSPEARE, WITH WHOME
QUICK NATVRE DIDE; WHOSE NAME DOTH DECK Ys. TOMBE
FAR MORE THEN COST; SIEH ALL Yt. HE HATH WRITT,
LEAVES LIVING ART, BYT PAGE TO SERVE HIS WITT.

OBIT ANO. DOI. 1616. ÆTATIS 53. DIE 23. Ap.

The bust was evidently executed by a sculptor of some taste and skill, and is certainly an estimable relic, as we are fairly warranted in supposing that it was approved, on the score of resemblance, by those relatives familiar with Shakspeare's person, under whose direction the monument was erected.‡ The eye-

* Wheeler's Stratford, p. 72.

† In our opinion this was an entire work of supererogation. That the taste was bad, which induced those who first raised the monument to bestow colours imitative of real life, must be uniformly admitted. But the fashion of Antiquity is a sufficient excuse for preserving its harmless absurdities. The mode in which Shakspeare's close relatives wished to perpetuate a faint effort at his resemblance, should have been reverentially maintained.

‡ It has been remarked that there is a considerable resemblance between this bust and the print of Shakspeare prefixed to the folio edition of his works, printed in 1623. The monument is known to have been erected within the seven years succeeding Shakspeare's death, and there is a tradition prevailing in Stratford that the bust was copied from a cast after nature.

eye-brows are strongly marked; the forehead unusually high; the head nearly bald; and the face evincing an habitual composure that may be rationally conjectured the natural indication of the highest possible stage of intellectual excellence.

There are not any monumental inscriptions to other persons of the name of Shakspeare, except the wife of the poet, who died on the 6th of August, 1623, at the age of sixty-seven years. Her remains lie between the grave of her husband and the north wall of the chancel. On a brass plate, inserted in the stone over her grave, is an account of her age and the time of her decease, with some pious Latin verses, probably written by her son-in-law, Dr. Hall. Two other flat stones near the grave of Shakspeare denote the spots in which were interred the bodies of Susanna, his beloved daughter,* and her husband, John Hall, the physician. At the east end of the chancel is the monument of John Combe, Esq. who died on the 10th of July, 1614. On the tomb is an effigy of the deceased,† in a long gown, with a book in his hand. The inscription notices some charitable bequests made by Mr. Combe, and concludes with the observation, "*Virtus post funera vivit.*"

In the fifth of Edward III. John de Stratford, then Bishop of Winchester, and afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury, founded a chantry

* On the stone covering Mrs. Hall's grave were formerly some English verses, (a copy of which is preserved in Dugdale,) but these "were many years since purposely obliterated, to make room for another inscription carved on the same stone, for Richard Watts, a person of no relation to the Shakspeare family!"—Wheler, p. 78.

† It will be recollected that Mr. John Combe was a neighbour and acquaintance of Shakspeare. He is said to have been so much disliked for various practices, that Shakspeare composed on him the following extemporaneous lines, as a satirical epitaph:

"Ten in the hundred lies here ingrav'd,
'Tis a hundred to ten his soul is not sav'd;
If any man ask who lies in this tomb,
Oh! Oh! quoth the devil, 'tis my John-a Combe."

There is, however, no authority for believing that these severe verses were written by Shakspeare.

chantry in the chapel of St. Thomas the Martyr, adjoining the south aisle of this church, for a warden and four priests. This foundation met with several benefactors, the principal of whom was Ralph de Stratford, (afterwards Bishop of London,) who, in the 26th of Edward III. erected, as a habitation for the priests, a substantial mansion-house, of squared stone, (afterwards called the College,) adjoining the west side of the church-yard.—The church of the Holy Trinity was thus constituted collegiate; and so it remained until the dissolution of monastic houses, at which period the revenues were valued, according to Tanner, at 123*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.* clear of all reprises. The buildings of the College were granted by Edward VI. to John Earl of Warwick, afterwards Duke of Northumberland; and, reverting to the crown on the attainder of that nobleman, were subsequently sold to the above-mentioned John Combe, Esq. who made them his residence, and here died. The mansion was afterwards greatly improved, and remained an eligible abode till towards the close of the eighteenth century. The whole was taken down in the years 1799 and 1800, by the late Edmund Battersbee, Esq. of Stratford.

The *Crypt*, or *Charnel-House*, formerly attached to Stratford church, was an object of much curiosity, as it is probable that, from an early contemplation of this dreary spot, Shakspeare imbibed that horror of a violation of sepulture, which is observable in many parts of his writings, and which speaks so emphatically in the inscription on his grave-stone. As this building had sunk to much dilapidation, a faculty was granted to raze it to the ground, at the request of the churchwardens. The demolition took place in the year 1800; previously to which the great collection of human fragments was carefully covered over. The following notice respecting the appearance of this melancholy receptacle occurs in Mr. Wheeler's History of Stratford:—"In the charnel-house was contained a vast assemblage of human bones. How long they had been deposited there is not easily to be determined; but it is evident, from the immense quantity contained in the vault, it could have been used for no other purpose

for many ages. It is supposed the custom was discontinued at the Reformation, as no addition to them had been made in the memory of the oldest inhabitant of the town living in the last century. This vault was built in the unornamented Saxon style; the pillars, a little above the surface of the earth, were each divided into three ribs, intersecting each other, and closed up with unhewn stone." *

The *Gild of the Holy Cross* was founded in Stratford at a very early period, but the exact time at which it was formed is not to be discovered. In the year 1269, Robert de Stratford, and the brethren and sisters of the gild, obtained permission to found an hospital, and erect a chapel for their use; and the Bishop of Worcester gave them the Rule of St. Austin, with a proper habit. Several benefactors occurred early in the reign of Edward III. and a resident of Stratford bestowed some houses and land in the seventh of Richard II.; but as this well disposed person improvidently neglected to obtain a *licence* for his gifts, the property devolved on the Crown. But this act of inadvertency was not suffered to operate in a manner detrimental to the interests of the gild; and Henry IV. allowed the members to begin a fraternity composed of themselves and friends, to the honour of the Holy Cross and St. John the Baptist, and to provide two priests to celebrate divine service within their chapel. At the Dissolution of such institutions in the reign of Henry VIII. it was found that there were four priests belonging to this gild, each of whom had an annual stipend of 5*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* and a schoolmaster, who received 10*l.* *per annum*.

The possessions of this fraternity remained in the Crown till the seventh of Edward VI. in which year they were valued at 46*l.* 3*s.* 2½*d.* and, together with the chapel, guildhall, and almshouses, were granted to the members of the corporation of Stratford, with the intent that they should apply the revenues to specified charitable and public uses.

The chapel formerly appertaining to this gild is a considerable ornament

ornament to the town of Stratford. Many parts of the structure were taken down, and rebuilt in the ornamented Gothic style, by Sir Hugh Clopton, in the latter part of the reign of Henry VII.; but the chancel is evidently of earlier date, and, from the accounts of the fraternity, it appears to have been rebuilt about the year 1443. Against the east wall of the nave is a monument erected in 1708, at the request of the corporation, by Sir John Clopton, their recorder, to the memory of Sir Hugh Clopton, the restorer of the fabric, and a liberal benefactor to the town in many other instances.

In the year 1804, this chapel underwent considerable repairs, and it was then accidentally discovered that the interior face of the walls had been embellished with fresco paintings. Some accumulated coats of white-wash were carefully removed; and as this discovery fortunately took place while a gentleman,* whose veneration for antiquities has been evinced on many occasions, was on a visit to Stratford, in the course of a topographical tour in Warwickshire, and the neighbouring counties, accurate drawings were made of these curious antique designs, to the high gratification of the literary part of the public.

The more ancient paintings were in the chancel; and were expressive of different passages in the legends of the Holy Cross; namely, the *Invention*, or finding of the cross by the Empress Helena, mother of Constantine; and the *Exaltation* of the cross, or the public entry of Constantine, with his holy treasure, into Jerusalem. These allusive paintings were eleven in number.

On the west face of the wall which divides the nave and chancel, and over the spot formerly occupied by the rood-loft, were found representations of the Resurrection and the Day of Judgment. Christ sitting on a Rainbow in the centre as Judge; on his right hand his mother, Mary, and on his left St. John, kneeling, as intercessors. In the upper part of the picture, on the right

* Mr. Thomas Fisher, of Hoxton. This gentleman has conferred an additional favour on the antiquary, by giving publicity to his drawings; copies, in outline, of which have since been executed at the Polyautographic press of Mr. Volweiler.

right of the Judge, was a display of heaven, represented by a palace, or pile of buildings, in the Gothic style. At the gate was placed a gigantic figure of St. Peter, receiving, and welcoming by a homely shake of the hand, a crowd of persons, among whom were Popes, Emperors, Kings, and priests, designated by the insignia of their rank; but all otherwise unattired. On the other side were represented the open jaws of the pit intended for the reception of the condemned; and here the monkish system of conducting to grace through the operation of terror was exemplified with much effect. The reprobate, bound together by a large black chain, were driven and dragged towards those yearning jaws by demons of a filthy shape; and the lower part of the picture, on this side, exhibited the interior of the infernal regions, consisting of several apartments, or chambers, in which was described the process of such strange modes of torment as the ingenuity of priestcraft in a dark age would alone seem capable of devising.

At the west end of the chapel were large paintings, descriptive of the combat between St. George and the Dragon, and the Death of Becket *. Beneath these pictures were two very curious allegorical pieces. In a niche on the south side was a figure of St. Modwena; and there had, likewise, been representations of other saints, but these were nearly obliterated. Leland says, in his *Collectanea*, that "there was curiously paynted, about the body of this chaple, the Daunce of Deathe, commonly called the Daunce of Powles;" but no traces of such a design were here discovered. †

Such

* To the honour of both these saints, altars were maintained at the cost of the gild.

† Mr. Wheler observes, in his *History of Stratford*, that "if such paintings of the Daunce of Death now exist in the body of the chapel, they are, probably, upon the north and south walls; the greater part of the pews, &c. under the large windows, not being disturbed in the late reparation." *History of Stratford*, p. 98.

Such of these paintings as were in the chancel were executed on plaister, and were, therefore, with a small exception, destroyed in the course of the reparations. Those in the nave were worked on the stone, and have since been whitened over.

Adjoining the chapel on the south is the *Guildhall*, a building supposed to have been raised, under the direction of Robert de Stratford, towards the close of the 13th century, and which was originally appropriated to the use of the fraternity of the Holy Cross. The structure, has, however, undergone many alterations, particularly on the exterior. The lower apartments of this building are now used by the corporation for purposes of public business; and, in the upper division, is the *Grammar School*, an institution open to all boys who are natives of the Borough of Stratford. This school was founded in the reign of Henry VI. by an ecclesiastic named Jolepe, who was a native of Stratford, and a member of the ancient gild of the cross. The rooms connected with this scholastic foundation must needs be viewed with particular interest, when it is remembered that Shakspeare is believed to have here received early tuition! By virtue of a charter granted by Edward VI. not more than a fortnight before his death, the master of this free grammar school receives from the corporation an annual stipend of 20*l*. and is provided with a dwelling house. The salary has lately experienced a considerable augmentation.

Contiguous to the guildhall are *Almshouses*, in which, before the dissolution of the gild twenty-four destitute persons were maintained by that fraternity. Twelve poor men, and the same number of poor women, now receive five shillings each per week, besides apparel and other advantages.

The *Townhall* is a fine structure of the Tuscan order, erected in the year 1768. At the time of the jubilee this building was dedicated to the memory of Shakspeare, and was honoured with the name of SHAKSPEARE'S HALL, by David Garrick. On the west front are placed the arms of the corporation of Stratford; and, in a niche at the north end, is a good statue of Shakspeare,
pre-

presented for the purpose by Garrick. On a scroll, to which one hand of the statue points, are inscribed the following lines from the "Midsummer Night's Dream :"

The poet's eye, in a fine frenzy rolling,
Doth glance from heaven to earth, from earth to heaven;
And, as imagination bodies forth
The forms of things unknown, the poet's pen
Turns them to shapes; and gives to airy nothing
A local habitation, and a name.

On the pedestal are these words from Hamlet:

——— take him for all in all,
We shall not look upon his like again.

Beneath is the following inscription:

"The corporation and inhabitants of Stratford, assisted by the munificent contributions of the nobility and gentlemen of the neighbourhood, rebuilt this edifice, in the year 1768. The statue of Shakspeare, and his picture within, were given by David Garrick, Esq."

The chief room of this building is sixty feet long by thirty feet wide, and is adorned by portraits of Shakspeare, Garrick, and John Frederic, late Duke of Dorset. The picture affecting to represent Shakspeare is by Wilson. The poet is sitting in an antique chair, in the attitude of inspiration; and on the ground lie several books and manuscripts. The general effect is pleasing, and the painter has shewn judgment in throwing the face under deep shadow, since he was conscious that imagination must assist in completing its character*.

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* The only portrait of Shakspeare that has a tenable claim to originality is that formerly belonging to Mr. Felton, and now to Messrs. Boydell. This is painted on wood, and on the back is the following inscription:—"Guil. Shakspeare

The portrait of Garrick is by Gainsborough, and represents that great actor leaning on a pedestal, which supports the bust of the poet to whom he was so much indebted.

The market house (locally termed *the Cross*) is situate at the top of the High Street. This building is probably as ancient as the time of Elizabeth, but was certainly erected at a period subsequent to the Reformation, as it incloses the remains (the base, with part of the shaft) of a cross,* formerly constructed for devotional purposes.

The town is approached by a fine stone bridge, thrown over the river Avon, 376 yards in length, and about 16 feet wide. A stone pillar placed on the third pier from the east end bears the following inscription:—"St Hugh Clopton, Knight, Lord Mayor of London, built this bridge, at his own proper expense, in the reign of King Henry ye Seventh."

Stratford has not any staple manufacture of consequence, but has a respectable commercial interchange with neighbouring places. The market is weekly, and is well attended. The annual fairs are seven in number, besides a statute held for the hiring of servants, on the morrow after old Michaelmas Day.

This town was formerly under the jurisdiction of a bailiff, fourteen aldermen, and fourteen burgesses, and was incorporated in the seventh year of Edward VI. A fresh charter of incorporation was granted in the sixteenth of Charles II. by which the municipal government is vested in a mayor, twelve aldermen (of whom the mayor is one) and twelve burgesses. "The mayor, *pro tempore*, is coroner of Stratford upon Avon, and justice of the peace

speare, 1597. R. N." It was purchased by S. Felton, Esq. of Curzon Street, May Fair, at the "fourth sale by private contract at the European Museum, King Street, St. James's Square, 1792," for the sum of five guineas, and was first introduced to public notice in 1794. For various arguments in support of the genuine character of this portrait, see several advertisements prefixed to Reed's edition of Shakspeare, 1813.

* The foundation of another cross may still be perceived in Stratford, at the north end of Rother Market, and opposite Wood Street.

peace within the limits of the borough, the town of old Stratford, and within the church and church-yard. The high steward, recorder, steward of the court of record; the two senior aldermen, and the preceding mayor (during one year after serving that office) are also justices of the peace within the same jurisdiction." *

According to the returns made to Parliament in 1811, the number of inhabitants, &c. in Stratford upon Avon, including Old Stratford, was in that year as follows:—Houses inhabited, 700; houses uninhabited, 17; houses then building, 3; total of persons, 3,694.

Stratford presents to the notice of the topographer several *Natives*, whose names are viewed with honest pride by the town which gave them birth. The incomparable SHAKESPEARE necessarily claims priority of consideration.

It would be trite to expatiate on the ardent curiosity, and warmth of friendly feeling, with which mankind seek to acquire knowledge concerning the circumstances of worldly adventure, and the personal habits, and latent sentiments, of those whose talents charm the fancy, and assist in forming the judgment. No writer is calculated to raise so much enthusiasm of personal reverence as Shakspeare; for no writer enters so deeply into the sympathies of human nature, and associates so closely his own feelings with those of his reader. How peculiarly, then, is it to be regretted that scarcely one particular of his life is satisfactorily handed down for the gratification of posterity!

The popular opinions respecting the biography of Shakspeare are formed on the meagre and desultory statements of *Rowe*, who professes to gain his information from Betterton the actor †.

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* History and Antiquities of Stratford, p. 18.

† Betterton was born in 1635; and, after he had been some time on the stage, visited Stratford for the purpose of collecting particulars concerning the Life of Shakspeare. Mr. Oldys, who made large collections towards a similar work, insinuates a doubt as to whether Betterton really did make a journey

The substance of the intelligence conveyed by this writer is as follows:—William Shakspeare was the son of John Shakspeare, a considerable dealer in wool at Stratford, “who had so large a family, ten children in all, that he could give his son no better an occupation than his own employment.” Yet Mr. Rowe observes, that the Shakspeare family, “as appears by the register and public writings relating to the town, were of good figure and fashion there, and are mentioned as gentlemen.” Shakspeare was placed for some time at a free school, but the narrowness of his father’s circumstances prevented his long stay at this place of education, and he was taken home, where his assistance was wanted. “Upon his leaving school he seems to have given entirely into that way of living which his father proposed to him,” and at an early age he married the daughter of one Hathaway, said to have been a substantial yeoman residing at Shottery, near Stratford. In this kind of settlement he continued for some time, till a thoughtless extravagance of which he was guilty compelled him to leave the country. He had, by a misfortune not uncommon with the young and inexperienced, fallen into ill company, and was induced to join a party which stole some deer from a park belonging to Sir Thomas Lucy, of Charlecote. For this he was prosecuted by that gentleman, as he thought too severely; and, in return, he lampooned his prosecutor in some bitter verses. Such a step redoubled the hostility of Sir Thomas Lucy, and Shakspeare was obliged to leave his family and business, and shelter himself in London.

It is on this occasion that he is said to have made his first acquaintance with the playhouse *, into which he was received in a
 very

journey to Stratford for biographical researches. But this doubt does not appear worthy of regard. It seems probable that Betterton’s veneration of the poet, to whose works he was much indebted, would induce him to undertake such an investigation; and the respectability of his character forbids us to suppose that he would assert a deliberate falsehood to the biographer of his beloved bard.

* According to an anecdote communicated by Rowe to Pope, he at first waited

very mean capacity; but "his admirable wit, and the natural turn of it to the stage, soon distinguished him, if not as an extraordinary actor, yet as an excellent writer."

In the course of his public life he met with many marks of favour from the Earl of Southampton, famous for his friendship to the unfortunate Earl of Essex. As a signal instance of this patronage, Mr. Rowe observes, on the authority of Sir William D'Avenant, that Lord Southampton presented him with the sum of one thousand pounds, for the completion of a purchase to which he was inclined.

Mr. Rowe celebrates his "exceeding candour and good nature," and observes that "his acquaintance with Ben Jonson began with a remarkable piece of humanity. Jonson, at that time altogether unknown to the world, had offered one of his plays to the players, and the persons into whose hands it was put, having turned it carelessly and superciliously over, were just upon returning it to him with an ill-natured answer, when Shakspeare luckily cast his eye upon it, and found something so well in it as to engage him first to read it through, and afterwards to recommend Jonson and his writings to the public."

The latter part of his life, observes this biographer, "was spent in ease, retirement, and the conversation of his friends. He had the good fortune to gather an estate equal to his occasion, and in that to his wish, and is said to have spent some years before his death at his native Stratford."

The account written by Rowe was long the only source of intelligence to which the public had access; but recent commentators on the Life and Writings of our great bard have introduced to notice some biographical hints by Aubrey *, preserved in the

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Ashmolean

waited at the door of the playhouse, to "hold the horses of those who had no servant, that they might be ready again after the performance." The groundwork of this story appears to have been of so suspicious a nature that Rowe, though he communicated the anecdote to Pope, refrained from inserting it in his own biographical notice of Shakspeare.

* Aubrey was born in 1625, or 1626, and died about the year 1700. He

Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. In these curious papers occur the following passages :—"William Shakspeare's father was a *butcher*, and I have been told, heretofore, by some of the neighbours, that when he was a boy he exercised his father's trade; but when he killed a calf he would do it in a *high style*, and make a speech. This William, being naturally inclined to poetry and acting, came to London, I guesse, about 18, and was an actor at one of the playhouses, and did act exceedingly well. He was a handsome, well-shaped man; verie good companie, and of a very ready and pleasant and smooth witt. He was wont to go to his native country once a year. I think I have been told that he left near 300*l.* to a sister. He understood Latin pretty well, for he had been in his younger yeares a schoolmaster in the country."

Such, and so humble, are the bases on which depends the biography of the greatest writer that ever adorned the annals of human capacity! While contrasting this paucity of personal memorials with the unlimited spread of his literary renown, we are tempted to refer to the remark of Bruyere; "there have appeared, from time to time, some admirable, extraordinary, men, whose

was entered a gentleman commoner of Trinity College, Oxford, in 1642; and, in 1662, was elected a member of the Royal Society. The greater part of his life was devoted to literature. He published several works; had an extensive correspondence with some eminent men; and left large MS. collections, which are now repositied in the Ashmolean Museum. Anthony Wood, at one period, placed so much reliance on his veracity, that he literally transcribed from his MS. account of the English poets, the *Life of Milton*. But Wood afterwards represents Aubrey as "a *pretender to Antiquities*, roving, maggottie headed, and little better than crased." It appears certain that Aubrey was extremely credulous: His character for veracity has, however, not been impeached; and Wood might, perhaps, safely depend on what he said concerning Milton, with whom he was personally and well acquainted. But his evidence relating to Shakspeare is all of that *hearsay* kind which must be treated with much suspicion, when it comes from a person known to be of easy faith, though there may be no doubt as to the fidelity with which he would repeat what he had heard.

whose virtue and eminent qualities have cast a prodigious lustre, like those unusual stars in the heavens, the causes of which we are ignorant of, and know as little of them after they disappear." The writings of Shakspeare alone speak of him in a satisfactory way. His mind stands there identified; and, perhaps, it were wisest to study him only when his feelings were lifted above the accompaniment of sordid motives, and were far distant from the ungracious trammels of ordinary circumstance. Curiosity, however, requires more; and we proceed to the few observations allowed by our limits.

While so little is known concerning Shakspeare himself, it is not likely that many particulars should be discovered respecting his parents, or more remote ancestors. A "grant, or confirmation of arms," was issued in the year 1599, empowering John Shakspeare (the father of the poet) to impale the arms of Arden with his own.* In this grant occur the following words: "John Shakspeare, now of Stratford upon Avon, in the countie of Warwick, *Gent.* whose parents, great grandfather, and late Antecessor, for his faithfull and approved service to the late most prudent Prince, King Henry VII. of famous Memorie, was advanced and rewarded with lands and tenements, given to him in those parts of Warwickshire, where they have continewed by some descents in good reputacion and credit; and for that the said John Shakspeare *having maryed the daughter and one of the keyrs of Robert Arden, of Wellingeote, in the said countie,* &c.

In a MS. note to the above grant of arms John Shakspeare is farther stated "to possess lands and tenements in the county of Warwick, valued at 500*l.*"

From this document it would appear that the poet's father was a man of property, good connection, and much respectability. But every particular relating to the family of Shakspeare,

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* A grant of arms was made to John Shakspeare in the year 1569, while he was bailiff of Stratford; but it is not now extant in the herald's office.—Malone.

and to the events of his own life, abounds in contradictions and perplexities. Malone observes that, after a very careful examination in the chapel of the rolls, from the beginning to the end of the reign of Henry VII. it appears that no grant of lands was made by that king to the Shakspeare family. In the book of the corporation of Stratford is an entry, stating that John Shakspeare and Robert Bruce were, in 1579, excused paying a weekly tax of 4*d.* which was levied on the other aldermen; and in 1586, the name of John Shakspeare was erased from the list of corporate members, "because he doth not come to the halls." These latter circumstances have been adduced as reasons for supposing that he sank to comparative poverty about this period; but Mr. Britton * has remarked "that they might arise from personal disputes, or such peculiarities of political opinion, as too frequently occur in boroughs." Concerning the trade of Shakspeare's father we must believe Rowe's account to be satisfactory, as it is founded on uniform tradition, and is opposed only by the hearsay assertion of Aubrey.

William Shakspeare was born on the 23d of April, 1564. It seems probable that he was placed at the free-school of his native town; and, from his want of a deep acquaintance with the learned languages, † it is likely that he was taken thence at the age usual with boys who are designed for trade.

We have no authority for disbelieving that Shakspeare, as stated by Rowe, assisted in the business of his father on leaving school. The early period at which he quitted Stratford forbids us to suppose that he was, in his *younger years*, a schoolmaster in the country, as asserted by Aubrey. Mr. Malone conjectures "that he was employed, while he yet remained at Stratford, in the office of some country attorney," because he evinces "such a knowledge of legal terms as has the appearance of *technical skill*."

* In his "Essay on the life, genius, and writings of Shakspeare," prefixed to Whittingham's edition of the poet.

† We presume that our poet's slight knowledge of the languages is ascertained by Dr. Farmer's "Essay on the Learning of Shakspeare."

skill." But if we are to conjecture Shakspeare's early employment on account of his familiarity with terms of usage, we may range at will through all descriptions of trade and profession; for his strange art appears to be equally conversant with the mysteries of every occupation.

That he married early is evident; for his eldest daughter (Susanna) was baptized May 26, 1583, at which time Shakspeare was only a few weeks more than nineteen years of age. His wife was Anne Hathaway, who was eight years older than himself, and who brought him three children; Susanna, noticed above, and twins, named Hamnet and Judith, baptized on the 2d of February, 1584-5.

The exact period at which Shakspeare left Stratford has not been ascertained; but it is supposed to have been subsequent to the birth of his twin children. We would willingly believe that the story respecting the act of indiscretion alledged as the cause of his retreat, is founded in error;* but a tradition to that effect must have been strong in the neighbourhood at the appearance of Rowe's Memoir; and do not the works of Shakspeare contain passages that appear to corroborate the anecdote? That he intends the character of Justice Shallow for a portraiture of Sir Thomas Lucy, seems evident from the Justice and the Knight being distinguished by the same armorial bearings; and Shallow mentions, as a reason for his petulant treatment of Falstaff, that Sir John "has beat his men, killed his deer, and broke open his lodge." We may readily ascribe this lengthened resentment of the poet to Lucy's pertinacious remembrance of his juvenile error; and, under the article *Fulbroke*, we endeavour to suggest a circum-

* Mr. Britton is inclined to suppose "that some circumstance of family disagreement, perhaps *estrangement from his wife*," might lead to his removal from Stratford. There certainly is room to fear that his marriage was not productive of permanent comfort. In his will he bequeaths to his wife only one trifling article of household furniture; and it will be observed that he had no children by her after the year 1584-5.

a circumstance of locality that may tend to lessen the impropriety of Shakspeare's conduct.

On repairing to London he is conjectured by Mr. Malone to have been introduced to the theatre by Thomas Green, a relative, and native of Stratford, who was at that time an actor. It has been found impossible to trace the progressive steps by which he rose to notice and employment. We may naturally suppose that his first efforts were made as an actor, rather than as a writer. His talents in this capacity have been variously represented. That he was a complete master of the theory of playing, few will be inclined to disallow after reading his instructions to the performers in Hamlet, and his description of a skilful tragedian in Richard III. He appears, however, to have not undertaken, at any period, characters of an heroic, or, as they are usually termed, of a first-rate description. Respecting the evanescent pretensions of an actor, posterity can seldom form a safe judgment. There are few subjects on which the public opinion is usually more divided; and after-ages must entirely depend on such assertions as partiality or prejudice may choose to transmit; for the truly judicious seldom perpetuate their thoughts on such a topic. Several contemporary writers praise, though certainly without much warmth, his abilities as a player; but Rowe observes, from the information of Betterton, "who was inquisitive into this point, and had very early opportunities of enquiry from Sir W. D'Avenant, that he was no *extraordinary actor*." He seems chiefly to have affected such characters as were meant to express the plaintive feebleness of old age; and in regard to his general repute as an actor, we are warranted in supposing that he had a chaste and natural manner of delivery which was *caviare* to the multitude of an era so new to the genuine beauties of the drama.

But his pretensions as an actor are only of secondary import. We pass to the writings calculated to delight and inform the world, and which can be received but with one opinion, because they

they appeal to the heart in its own immutable language. All attempts to settle the period at which Shakspeare began to write for the stage, and the order and succession of his plays, are attended with the same embarrassments as the efforts towards an elucidation of less memorable events in his life. He appears to have been himself either careless of literary fame, or unconscious that his dramatic productions were likely to afford a passport to immortality. If the latter conclusion be well founded, and such was indeed his modesty, how incomprehensible must have been the resources of a mind which could treat such compositions as trifles! It is certain, whatever might be the motive,* that he neglected either to publish his dramatic pieces, or to prepare them for publication; and they first passed through the press, in a collective form, in the year 1623, seven years after his decease. They were then printed by the players from stage copies.

Mr. Malone has bestowed much labour and ingenuity on an endeavour to ascertain the order in which these plays were written. According to this commentator, Shakspeare first exercised his dramatic genius in altering and preparing for the stage the three historical plays falsely printed in the first folio as of his entire composition, and now termed the First, Second, and Third Parts of King Henry VI. The following are the dates which a judicious exercise of probable conjecture induced Mr. Malone to affix to the more estimable pieces :

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* Dr. Farmer observes, that " when a poet was connected with a particular playhouse, he constantly sold his works to the company, and it was their interest to keep them from a number of rivals. Shakspeare, therefore, himself, published nothing in the drama. When he left the stage his copies remained with his fellow-managers; who, at their own retirement, gave the world the edition now known by the name of the first folio, and call the previous publications " stolne and surreptitious."—But Shakspeare, as a joint-proprietor, might readily have indemnified his partners for the presumed loss to be sustained by a direct publication of his works? And this attention to the interest of his co-adjutors did not prevent him from preparing his writings to meet the public eye?

A Midsummer-Night's Dream	1592.
Comedy of Errors	1593.
Taming of the Shrew	1594.
Love's Labour's Lost	1594.
Two Gentlemen of Verona	1595.
Romeo and Juliet	1595.
Hamlet	1596.
King John	1596.
King Richard II.	1597.
King Richard III.	1597.
First Part of King Henry IV.	1597.
Second Part of King Henry IV.	1598.
The Merchant of Venice	1598.
All's Well that Ends Well	1598.
King Henry V.	1599.
Much Ado About Nothing	1600.
As You Like it.	1600.
Merry Wives of Windsor	1601.
King Henry VIII.	1601.
Troilus and Cressida	1602.
Measure for Measure	1603.
The Winter's Tale	1604.
King Lear	1605.
Cymbeline	1605.
Macbeth	1606.
Julius Cæsar	1607.
Antony and Cleopatra	1608.
Timon of Athens	1609.
Coriolanus	1610.
Othello	1611.
The Tempest	1612.
Twelfth Night	1614.*

To

* Besides his plays, Shakspeare wrote the following poetical pieces:—*Venus and Adonis*, printed as early as 1593; *Tarquin and Lucrece*, printed in 1594. Both these works are dedicated to the Earl of Southampton. The *Passionate Pilgrim*, (a collection of poems so intituled,) printed in 1599; and *Sonnets*, printed in 1609. Occasional beauties must occur in the page proceeding from such a pen; but the magical influence of Shakspeare was confined to the drama.

To expatiate on the merits of these productions would be quite superfluous. A brief notice of their fortunes, in regard to public appreciation, may be desirable. They were extremely popular at the time of their first appearance. The cavils of little wits best prove the throngs attracted by the early representation of Shakspeare's plays; and there are means of discovering that the author was distinguished and esteemed by persons of elevated rank. An instance of Lord Southampton's liberality (which would appear wonderful, if the object were any other man than Shakspeare,) we have already mentioned. Queen Elizabeth frequently had his plays performed before her. King James I. wrote him an "amicable letter:"* and, in the dedication to the folio edition of 1623, by Heminge and Condell, the Earls of Pembroke and Montgomery are said to have "prosequuted both the writings, and their author living, with much favour."

It will be found with surprise that, after the death of Shakspeare, the writings of Ben Jonson were, for many years, preferred to his by persons who pretended to scholarship and wit. But the neglect of his writings, in point of stage representation, was not confined to the period in which the tyrannical Jonson exercised personal influence. Between the years 1682 and 1695, only three of Shakspeare's plays were on the list of Downes, the prompter. It does not appear that the tragedy of Richard III. was performed from the time of the Restoration until the year 1700. After the appearance of Rowe's edition of our author, the exhibition of his plays became more frequent; but still wretched alterations were preferred to the dramas in their original form. The majority of these incomparable productions were, indeed, chiefly confined to the closet after the decease of their author, till Garrick imparted a new tone to the stage; and, by the display

* This letter (now lost) is said, on the authority of Sheffield, Duke of Buckingham, to have remained long in the hands of Sir W. D'Avenant. Dr. Farmer supposes it to have been written in return for the compliment paid to James, in *Macbeth*.

play of natural acting, inevitably restored the popular feeling to an admiration of the great poet of nature.

It would appear that Shakspeare first became director of a playhouse in the year 1603, at which time he, and several others, obtained a licence from James I. to "exhibit comedies, tragedies, histories, &c. at the Globe Theatre, and elsewhere." The plays which he is supposed to have produced subsequently to this period, will be seen in the chronological list which we have copied from Malone. We have stated, in our notice of *New Place*, that he purchased that residence in 1597; but it seems evident that his professional engagements in London must have rendered him, for some time, rather a visitor than an inhabitant of the mansion intended for the asylum of his declining years. It is not known at what period he disposed of his property in the Globe Theatre; but the statement of Rowe inclines us to suppose that it was several years previous to his decease, though he probably continued to write so late as the year 1614. The site of *New Place* must be viewed with additional interest if we believe that "The Tempest," and "Twelfth Night," were chiefly written at Stratford.

Concerning the domestic economy of Shakspeare, during his theatrical career, or the days of his retirement, nothing satisfactory is known. It is gratifying to find that the exercise of his wonderful talents produced considerable pecuniary benefits; and we observe, with equal gratification, that he possessed prudence to retain what he acquired. Gildon says that Shakspeare left behind him an estate of 300*l.* *per annum*; but more careful investigators suppose that the whole of his real and personal property did not produce more than the yearly revenue of 200*l.* a sum that was, in the early part of the seventeenth century, perhaps equal to 1000*l.* at the present period; an income certainly *sufficient for his occasion*, and, therefore, we readily believe *equal to his wish*.

Shakspeare died at his house termed *New Place*, in Stratford,

on

on Tuesday, the 23d of April, 1616. This, it will be observed, was the fifty-second annual recurrence of his natal day. His *Will*,* bearing date the 25th of March, 1616, is yet extant in the office of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury. By this instrument he makes the following bequests:—to his daughter, Judith, one hundred and fifty pounds, one hundred to be paid in discharge of her marriage portion, within one year after his decease, and the remaining fifty on her surrendering to his daughter Susanna all claim to a copyhold tenement in Stratford-on-Avon, holden of the manor of Rowington. He also bequeathed to the same Judith one hundred and fifty pounds more, “if she, or any issue of her body, should be living at the end of three years next ensuing the day of the date of his will;” and, likewise, “his broad silver gilt bowl.”

To his sister Jone twenty pounds, and all his wearing apparel. Likewise the house in which she dwelt at Stratford, for her natural life, under the yearly rent of twelve-pence.

To her three sons, five pounds a piece.

To his grand-daughter, Elizabeth Hall, all his plate, except the broad and silver gilt bowl.

To the poor of Stratford, ten pounds. To Mr. Thomas Combe, his sword. To Thomas Russel, Esq. five pounds; and to Francis Collins, of the Borough of Warwick, Gent. thirteen pounds,

six

* This Will appears to have been drawn up in February, though not executed till the following month. In the preamble, the testator is said to be in perfect health and memory. This expression was, perhaps, intended to signify only soundness of mental powers; but it is a form of words that we have not observed to occur in any other will drawn nearly at the same period. The will is written on three sheets of paper, the two last of which are subscribed with Shakspeare's own hand. His name is, likewise, in the margin of the first sheet; but this is said by Malone to have been written by the scrivener who drew the will; and, by others, is thought to have been inserted by the entering clerk in the Prerogative Office.

six shillings, and eight-pence. To Hamlet (Hamnet) Sadler, twenty-six shillings and eight-pence, to buy him a ring. To William Reynolds, Gent. a like sum for the same purpose. To his godson, William Walker, twenty shillings in gold; to Anthony Nash, Gent. twenty-six shillings and eight-pence. To Mr. John Nash, the same sum; and to "his Fellows," John Hemynge, Richard Burbage, and Henry Cundell, twenty-six shillings and eight-pence a piece, to buy them rings.

To his daughter, Susanna Hall, he bequeathed the whole of his real property for the term of her natural life, with remainder to her issue in tail male; but, in the instance of failure of such issue from his said daughter Susanna, he vested a right of succession in his daughter Judith, and her male issue.

The remainder of his personal property (*except the second best bed, with the furniture, which he gave to his wife,*) he bequeathed to his son-in-law, John Hall, Gent. and his daughter, Susanna, whom he appointed executors to his will, but subject in the discharge of that duty to Thomas Russel, Esq. and Francis Collins, Gent. as *overseers*.

Shakspeare's wife, as will be seen from our notice of the inscription over her grave in Stratford church, survived him rather more than seven years. His son, Hamnet, died in the thirteenth year of his age, in 1596. Susanna, his elder daughter, was married to John Hall, a physician of considerable repute and practice, residing at Stratford. The issue of this marriage was one daughter, Elizabeth, who was twice married; first to Thomas Nashe, Esq. and afterwards to Sir John Barnard, of Abingdon, Northamptonshire; but had no children by either husband. Judith, Shakspeare's second daughter, married Thomas Quiney, who appears to have been a person of respectability, and is styled *gentleman* in the register of Stratford.*

Mrs.

* It may, however, be observed that, in a "Declaration of Trust by John Heminges and others," Thomas Quiney is styled a *vintner*. See Malone's Inquiry into the Authenticity of certain Papers, &c. p. 413.

Mrs. Quiney had three children; but all died young. Thus, the last lineal descendant of Shakspeare was his grand-daughter, Lady Barnard, who died in 1669-70.

We cannot close this biographical sketch without observing that Shakspeare was not only admirable as a poet, but excellent as a man. Several of his contemporary dramatic writers are censured, in the pamphlets of those times, for malevolence of disposition, and various degrading vices. No man prefers one accusation against the great bard; and even his rivals praise the *gentleness* of his temper, and celebrate the general respectability of his character.

John de Stratford, Archbishop of Canterbury, was born in this town at the latter part of the thirteenth century. He studied at Merton College, Oxford, and was, at an early age, noticed by King Edward II. who appointed him his secretary, and constituted him a member of the privy-council. But he speedily fell under the displeasure of his royal master, by accepting from the Pope a nomination to the bishopric of Winchester, without the concurrence of the king. When restored to the favour of his sovereign he became subject to the enmity of the queen, and her favourite, Roger Mortimer; but Edward III. entertained so high an opinion of his talents and integrity, that, soon after his accession to the throne, he raised him to the office of lord-chancellor of England, and named him Archbishop of Canterbury. During the first French expedition of Edward, the chief care of the government at home was left to the archbishop. But this was a trust productive of much danger and trouble. The ungrateful office of levying the immense sums wanted by Edward for his ambitious undertaking was consigned to his hands; and when the popular discontent rose high, and the success of the enterprise was impeded through an unavoidable failure in the supplies, the court politically threw all the odium on the vice-gerent; and Archbishop Stratford was, for a time, exposed to the censure of every party. He, however, survived this severity of fortune, and

passed seven years of tranquillity in the discharge of his archiepiscopal functions. He died (as some assert, of the plague,) in the year 1348. The learning of this prelate was evinced by some literary compositions, which, we believe, are still preserved in the archives of Lambeth; the clemency of his temper is recorded by Godwin; and, as a proof of his liberality, and respect for those early impressions which unexpected grandeur sometimes obliterates in common minds, it may be sufficient to refer to the foundation of the chantry attached to the church of his native town.

Robert de Stratford, the younger brother of the archbishop, was also born in this place, and was rector, for some years, of the town which afforded him birth. He was twice entrusted by his brother with the care of the great seal; and, in the year 1336, he succeeded Archbishop Stratford in the office of lord-chancellor of England. He was afterwards promoted to the see of Chichester, and was elected chancellor of the University of Oxford. He died at an advanced age in 1362.

Ralph de Stratford, nephew to these distinguished prelates, was, likewise, a native of this town. He was consecrated Bishop of London in 1339. Little is known respecting his public life; (and, perhaps, the silence of history regarding a churchman may often be received as a testimony in his favour.) He proved his attachment to the place of his birth, by erecting a mansion for the accommodation of the priests appertaining to the chantry founded by the archbishop. His death occurred in 1353.

A curious instance of longevity in a native of Stratford is mentioned in Mr. Wheeler's historical work respecting this place. It is there stated that one Francis Ainge, who was baptized (as appears by the register,) on the 28th of August, 1629, left England in his youth for North America, where he resided till the 13th of April, 1767, on which day he died, at the age of 137 years and eight months, wanting fifteen days.*

The

* Wheeler's Stratford, p. 162—163.

The small village of SHOTTERY, distant from Stratford one mile on the west, is supposed to be the place in which Shakspeare's wife, Anne Hathaway, resided before her marriage. It is certain that the Hathaways, a numerous family, lived in this village about the period of Shakspeare's nuptials; and there is, consequently, reason for presuming that the popular tradition is correct. A cottage is yet shewn as the identical tenement in which she dwelt when Shakspeare "won her to his love;" but of this circumstance no resemblance of proof has been adduced.—The cottage was, a few years back, provided with several articles affirmed to have belonged to the great poet. Among these were a chair, termed "Shakspeare's courting chair;" a purse about four inches square, wrought with black and white bugles and beads; a small inkstand; and a pair of fringed gloves.—These articles were said to have "been handed down from Shakspeare to his grand-daughter, Lady Barnard; and from her, through the Hathaway family, to those of the present day." Influenced by the currency of this tradition, Mr. Ireland purchased the former two articles, and Mr. George Garrick the latter. But the character of their reliques will not bear examination. It will be uniformly found, by those who make enquiries without an effort at self-deception, that there is not a single article, of any nature, extant, that has been proved to have belonged to Shakspeare.

BIDFORD, a village on the northern bank of the Avon, is distant from Stratford about six miles. The tenancies of this lordship, forming a part of the ancient possessions of the crown, were given by King John to Llewelyn, Prince of Wales, on the marriage of his daughter Joan with that prince. By Llewelyn a grant was obtained for a weekly market here, in the fourth of Henry III. The existence of this market was recognized in the time of Elizabeth, but it has long since fallen into disuse.

There is a traditionary tale connected with Bidford, which has

been given to the public by a writer in the *Gentleman's Magazine*,* and by Ireland, in his views on the river Avon. It is said that there was formerly in this village an association of toppers, who took pride in the great quantity of ale they could swallow without falling under their rustic board, and who were in the habit of challenging the residents in neighbouring places to a trial of strength in this offensive capacity. Among others, certain inhabitants of Stratford were summoned to the contest; and it has been said that Shakspeare was one of those who accepted the challenge. The Stratford champions were soon overcome, and endeavoured to retire from the scene of action; but were not able to proceed farther on their way home than a crab-tree, still standing by the road side, about half a mile from Bidford. Here, according to the writers who have given publicity to the tradition, they found it expedient to lie down; and, soon falling asleep, they remained insensible till the following morning.† Shakspeare was the last to awake; and, when his companions urged him to return and renew the contest, he exclaimed "No! I have had enough; I have drank with

" Piping Peabworth, Dancing Marston,

" Haunted Hillbro', Hungry Grafton,

" Dudging Exhall, Papist Wicksford,

" Beggarly Broom, and Drunken Bidford."

We presume that the internal evidence of these verses will persuade the reader that it is unlikely they proceeded from Shakspeare.

* Vide *Gent. Mag.* for December, 1794, p. 1067.

† Mr. Ireland, and the writer in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, are more modest in this statement than the oral historians from whom they gained information. Those who repeat the tradition, in the neighbourhood of Stratford, invariably assert that the whole party slept undisturbed from Saturday night till the following Monday morning, when they were roused by workmen going to their labour!

peare. Various loose rhymes, appearing the result of accidental collision, are circulated in nearly every neighbourhood; and, if an eminent poetical character arise, it is an especial mercy to his memory if such fugitive compounds are not attributed to his muse. The story of Shakspeare's early excess, and of his long night's rest beneath the crab-tree, depends entirely on the most disputable kind of tradition; and we cannot avoid believing that the anecdote was fabricated as an accompaniment to rustic verses of ancient standing, when the name of Shakspeare became an object of general attraction. From the situation of Bidford, and its repute for festivity, it is, however, probable, that the place was frequently the resort of such company as Shakspeare was condemned to use in the early part of life.

Bidford-Grange is pleasantly situate on the border of the river Avon. This spacious mansion, which formerly appertained to Bordsley-Abbey, is now divided; the one part being occupied by the clergyman of the parish, and the other by a farmer. The property is vested in the Skipwith family.

CLOPTON-HOUSE is rather more than one mile from Stratford on the North. The lordship of Clopton was long possessed by a family who made it their principal place of residence, and took their surname from this seat. Sir George Carew, who married Joyce, the eldest daughter and coheiress of William Clopton, Esq. was created Baron Carew, *of Clopton*, in the third of James I. The various public services of this eminent person caused him to be raised to the dignity of Earl of Totness, in the first year of Charles I. But this accumulation of honours he lived to enjoy only four years; and, dying without legitimate issue, in 1629, was buried in the family vault of the Cloptons, at the east end of the north aisle of Stratford church, where a handsome monument is erected to his memory and that of his countess.

Clopton-House is a venerable mansion, probably erected in the latter part of the fifteenth century; but some modern exterior alterations detract much from the general effect of the building.

In different apartments are preserved a few pictures, and some curious articles of ancient furniture, among which is a bed *said* to have been given to Sir Hugh Clopton by King Henry VII.

CHARLECOTE,* the seat of the Rev. John Lucy, is situate on the eastern bank of the river Avon, at the distance of four miles from the town of Stratford. This spot will be viewed with considerable interest, as the former residence of Sir Thomas Lucy, the persecutor of Shakspeare, and the prototype of the weak, vain, petulant, Justice Shallow. William, the son of Walter de Charlecote, assumed the surname of Lucy about the close of the twelfth century;† and the family bore eminent sway in this part of the county through many generations. The Sir Thomas Lucy, whose frivolity and ill-temper are immortalized by the poet, was knighted in the seventh of Elizabeth, and was one of the representatives of the county of Warwick in two parliaments.

The family bore for their arms *three lucas (pike fish) hauriant d'argent*, in the person of William, who first assumed the surname of Lucy; so that Shakspeare is sufficiently warranted in satirically causing Justice Shallow to affirm that his is "an old coat."—"All his ancestors that come after him," says *Slender*, another member of this ancient family, "may give the dozen *white lucas* in their coat."

The mansion at Charlecote was rebuilt about the first year of Queen Elizabeth, by Sir Thomas Lucy; and the edifice then constructed is yet standing. It is a noble specimen of the domestic style which obtained in the latter part of the sixteenth century. The material is brick, with stone coigns; and, although too many freedoms have been taken, in the progress of various alterations, with its ancient character, the general effect of the structure is still venerable and impressive. The contiguous grounds

* This parish is in the Warwick Division of Kington Hundred, but is noticed in this page in consequence of its connexion with the town of Stratford.

† Dugdale's Antiquities, &c. p. 502.

grounds are richly stocked with timber, among which are elms of unusual growth and vigour. It is impossible to walk through these grounds, and to view the mansion, without reflecting on the hour in which the great genius and boast of the island was (according to tradition,) led through the humblest gate, and condemned to bow in silence before folly in a "furred gown."

In the Church are several monuments to different branches of the Lucy family, among which must be noticed that of Sir Thomas Lucy. This is an altar-tomb; and on the top are the effigies of himself and his lady, well executed. It is singular that Sir Thomas has no epitaph; but there is inscribed on a slab a warm memorial of the merits of his lady, professedly written by himself, and signed with his name. The terms of this eulogy are so tender and well-chosen, that the reader would be inclined to form a favourable opinion of his feelings and capacity, if he did not stand condemned to dislike in Shakspeare's resistless page. Sir Thomas died in 1600; his lady in 1595.

SNITTERFIELD DIVISION

comprises the following parishes and hamlets:—*Alveston*; *Bearley*; *Beausall* (hamlet); *Budbroke*; *Fulbroke*; *Hampton Lucy*, otherwise *Bishop's Hampton*; *Haseley*; *Hatton*; *Honiley*; *Loxley*; *Norton Lindsey*; *Sherbourne*; *Shrewley* (hamlet); *Snitterfield*; *Wolverton*; *Wroxall*.

The village of *ALVESTON* is agreeably situated near the banks of the Avon, at the distance of two miles from Stratford. This is a rural and pleasing neighbourhood, and was called by the late Dr. Perry the Montpelier of England, on account of the salubrity of the air.

To the west of Alveston are *Welcombe Hills*, the celebrated scene of warlike operations between the Britons and Saxons. Here are extensive entrenchments, termed the Dingles, which appear to have been formed by the latter people; and numerous other earth-works, some of which were probably thrown up to

cover the remains of those who fell in battle. The rugged features of this neighbourhood are softened by *Welcombe Lodge*, the handsome residence of George Lloyd, Esq.

The parish of *FULBROKE*, which now contains only a few scattered dwellings for agriculturists, but which once had a more numerous population, and possessed a place of parochial worship, is at a short distance from the town of Stratford, on the north-east. John, Duke of Bedford, third son of Henry IV. held this manor in the time of Henry VI. by the fourth part of a knight's fee. By the Duke of Bedford an extensive park was formed at Fulbroke, which was rendered picturesque and desirable by the contiguous flow of the river Avon. This nobleman, likewise, constructed, on an eminence within his newly-arranged domain, a building, which Dugdale terms a "little castle of brick and stone." The edifice appears to have been much neglected after the decease of the duke; and in the reign of Henry VIII. Sir William Compton, (who had custody of the park, which then appertained to the Crown) pulled down the whole of the ruinous pile, and employed the materials in erecting his mansion at Compton Wyniate. At a period subsequent to the fifth year of Queen Mary the manor was purchased by the Lucys of Charlecote, in which family the property remained till the early part of the 18th century. It is now possessed by Mr. Fullerton, late of Stratford College.

It has been said that Fulbroke Park was the scene of the memorable indiscretion which caused Shakspeare to fly from his native county. We have observed that every anecdote concerning the private life of the great poet rests on vague and most questionable tradition. Ireland,* as we believe, is the first writer who asserts that Fulbroke was the spot chosen for Shakspeare's thoughtless act of depredation. Rowe merely states the circumstance to have occurred in "a park belonging to Sir Thomas Lucy." As Sir Thomas possessed two parks in the close neighbourhood of Stratford, a liberty is, evidently, allowed for

* In his picturesque views on the Avon.

for conjecture; and it is more creditable to the memory for the bard to suppose that Fulbroke was the theatre of his indiscretion. There was not any mansion here to impart the notion of domestic property to the noble beast of chace which browsed the herbage; the buck, in these forsaken avenues, would almost appear *outlying* game, the tempting booty of every adventurous sportsman. But, while we are thus disposed to believe that Mr. Ireland's assertion is correct, we are bound to observe that the common tradition in the neighbourhood of Stratford runs counter to his statement. The present *reverberations* of traditional story are of little import; but they uniformly point to Charlecote as the scene of Shakspeare's inconsiderate freedom of conduct.

At WROXALL, distant six miles from the town of Warwick on the north-west, a nunnery was founded in the reign of Stephen by Hugh de Hatton, which met with several benefactors, and appears to have been an establishment of high credit through many ages. The nuns were of the Benedictine order, and the revenues were stated at the Dissolution to amount to 72*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* above all reprises. Anne Litle was prioress at that period, and obtained a pension of 7*l.* 10*s.* *per ann.* for life.

The site of the nunnery, with the church and all dependant lands in Wroxall, was granted, in the thirty-sixth of Henry VIII. to Robert Burgoyne and John Scudamore. A mansion was shortly after erected here, as it would appear by the Burgoyne family. This mansion, with the manor of Wroxall, was purchased in 1713, by the eminent Sir Christopher Wren, and both are now the property of his descendant, Christopher Wren, Esq. The manor-house, a spacious building of the Elizabethan order, is at present undergoing extensive repairs.*

Near Wroxall is HATTON, a place which derives its appellation,

* Among some pictures preserved here is an original portrait of the poet Somerville, which is interesting, as we believe that a likeness of that writer has not been engraved.

tion, according to Dugdale, from the heathy tract in its vicinity. This lordship is not mentioned in Domesday, but it appears to have formed a part of the possessions of Henry de Newburgh, the first Earl of Warwick of the Norman line. Of the Earls of Warwick it was held by Hugh de Hatton, who made this his principal seat, and assumed a surname from the place of his residence. The church of Hatton, and various lands situate in the parish, were bestowed on the nunnery of Wroxall by the founder of that religious house, and remained in the possession of the nuns till the period of the Dissolution. This neighbourhood acquires a considerable interest from the circumstance of affording a chosen residence to the Rev. Dr. Parr, one of the brightest literary ornaments of the present era. This profound scholar, who has been characterized as possessing the herculean intellect of Johnson, without the prejudices and acerbity which detracted from the great lexicographer's excellence, resides in the parsonage, a capacious and retired house at Hatton, and performs clerical duty at the parish church, a building which his active beneficence has led him to adorn with valuable painted glass, and other particulars of decorous embellishment. Here, with an extensive library, a select circle of admiring friends, and the exalted joys arising from the retrospect of a life that will adorn the literary annals of his country, Dr. Parr moves with real dignity, since all that bestows lustre on his name and abode emanates from his own talents and virtues.

At a short distance from Hatton is GROVE PARK, the seat of Lord Dormer. It is observed by Dugdale that, "in a record as ancient as the time of Edward I. this place is called *la Grave*, that is to say the Grove, shewing that it took its name originally from being a thick wood of high trees." The mansion on this estate is a capacious and venerable building.

ALCESTER DIVISION

comprises the market town of ALCESTER, and the following parishes and hamlets:—*Alce*, great; *Arrow*, with Ragley; *Coughton*; *Ipsley*; *Kinwarton*; *Milcot* (hamlet;); *Morton-Bagot*; *Sambourn* (hamlet;); *Spernall*; *Studley*; *Tardebigg*; *Tutnal* and *Cobley* (hamlet;); *Wetheley*.

The town of ALCESTER, or AULCESTER (ordinarily pronounced *Aulster*) is situate near the western border of the county. The confluence of the two small rivers *Alce* and *Arrow* takes place in the immediate neighbourhood of the town.

That this was a Roman station may be asserted on secure ground. Its name evinces its antiquity, as the word *Cestre*, or *Cester*, was invariably used by the Saxons, to express a fortified place; and the situation of the town on the *Icknield*, or *Ryknild*, Street, readily points to the people by whom those fortifications were raised. Vestiges of the Romans are, likewise, frequently discovered. *Dugdale* mentions "old foundations of buildings, Roman bricks, and coins," * which were often found here in his time. *Gibson* says that, "about fifty years ago, in digging a cellar, there was an urn taken up, with 600 and odd pieces of Roman coin in it;" † and *Gough* notices coins found in making the turnpike road to lead from Alcester to Stratford. Remains of the Romans are frequently turned up by the spade and plough at the present period. In the XVIIth Volume of the *Archæologia* is an account of two urns found in a piece of ground termed *Black-Lands*, near Alcester. One contained many fragments of human bones, which had evidently passed through the fire. The other was of squat proportions, and held only a small quantity of human dust, or ashes. These urns were submitted to the inspection of the Society of Antiquaries by *Joseph Brandish*, Esq. and are now in the possession of that gentleman. From the re-

marks

* *Antiq. of War.* p. 761.

† *Additions to Camden*, p. 513.

marks with which we were favoured by Mr. Brandish, during our investigations respecting Alcester, we are enabled to observe that urns are occasionally met with in every quarter of this vicinity, though they are usually knocked to pieces by the inadvertence of the rustic labourers. It is, likewise, a curious fact, that the earth is seldom penetrated to the depth of more than two feet, without the discovery of a human skeleton. It seems evident that Alcester was a Roman station of some importance, and its situation shews it to be the Alauna of Richard of Cirencester.

A general synod is supposed to have been held in this place, early in the eighth century, at which were present Bertwald, Archbishop of Canterbury, and Wilfrid, Archbishop of York; but there is not any mention of Alcester in Domesday, nor does the name directly occur in any record discoverable by Dugdale till the time of Henry I. In that reign Alcester was styled a borough, and, in the 23d of Henry II. it paid four marks aid to the king, amongst the other boroughs of this county. A monastery was founded here by Ralph Boteler, in the 5th of King Stephen; and a moiety of the manor being purchased by the Beauchamps in the latter part of the reign of Henry III. that powerful family fixed their chief seat in the vicinity, and became munificent patrons of the town. By the Beauchamps were procured several charters for fairs; and the family of Grevile, which succeeded to the lordship by a marriage with the daughter of Sir Richard Beauchamp, in the reign of Henry VIII. continued to reside in the ancient mansion, and to protect the interests of the town.

The buildings of Alcester prove the commercial respectability of the place in the 16th and 17th centuries. The chief houses have now received modern fronts, but the interior of many is yet unaltered, and here are seen the massy timbers and abundant carvings of past days.

The Church is a respectable structure, plainly fitted up, and containing in the south aisle the well preserved altar tomb of "Sir Foulke

Foulke Greyvyll," and Lady Elizabeth his wife. On the top are the recumbent effigies of the deceased.

The *Market Hall* is an ornamental building, in which the Marquis of Hertford, as Lord of the Manor, holds his courts. Beneath is a colonnade for the use of market people.

The monastery founded here in the reign of King Stephen stood to the north of the town, on a spot now called Priory Close. The site was completely insulated; the river Arrow forming a boundary on the north and east, and a moat being constructed on the other sides. This moat is still apparent, though in many places nearly filled with earth and overgrown by trees. The area within comprehends somewhat less than two acres, and was rendered arable in the early part of the 17th century. On ploughing within the limits of the monastery, a few years back, a stone coffin was found, with places formed to admit the head, the elbows, and the heels of the corpse.

There is a free-school, founded in the reign of Elizabeth, in pursuance of the will of Walter Newport, Gent. The market is small, but the town derives much benefit from the manufacture of needles, which is cultivated to so large an extent that it is supposed six hundred persons find employment in this trade. According to the returns made to Parliament in 1811, the number of inhabited houses in Alcester was then 401; of houses uninhabited, 10; and of houses building, 5. The total of persons appears from the same returns to be 1,862.

BEAUCHAMP'S COURT, the distinguished residence of the Beauchamps and the Greviles, stood on the western bank of the river Arrow, at a short distance from Alcester. On the site of the mansion is now a farm-house, occupied by one of the Marquis of Hertford's tenants. The Earl of Warwick takes the title of baron from this ancient court.

RAGLEY HALL, the seat of the Marquis of Hertford, is about two miles from Alcester on the south-west. The present mansion was built by Lord Conway, ancestor of the noble marquis, about

the middle of the past century; but within the last ten years the whole has experienced important alterations, under the care of the late Mr. Wyatt. This fine residence is situated on a commanding elevation, and is of noble size and proportions. The building is three stories high, and displays four fronts, each of which is conspicuous for architectural beauty. The spacious interior is well adapted to purposes of state and pleasure. The entrance-hall is of grand proportions, and is embellished with much fine stucco work. In several other apartments are some good pictures.

The attached park is very extensive, and abounds in majestic oak trees, which are preserved with scrupulous care. The young plantations are also numerous, and judiciously disposed. The park is, likewise, adorned by a fine spread of water, and is, in every feature, a worthy appendage to this truly noble seat.

The manor of COUGHTON came to the ancient family of Throckmorton in consequence of the marriage of one of that line with the daughter of William Spine, in the reign of Henry IV. The spacious mansion constructed by this family at an early period, is still the residence of their descendant, Sir John Throckmorton, Bart. This venerable seat, was originally of a quadrangular form, but such a mode of construction being found gloomy and inconvenient, one side of the building was taken down some few years back, and a prospect is now obtained of the windings of the river Arrow and the diversified country beyond. In the church of Coughton are several monuments to different members of the Throckmorton family.

MILCOTT, or MILCOTE, is situate on the southern edge of the county, and is a hamlet in the parish of Weston upon Avon, Gloucestershire. A branch of the Grevile family was long seated at Milcott, and had here a manor house, of which little trace now remains except some parts of the moat, which are to be seen in the premises attached to a farm-house erected on the site.

site. Of this branch of the Greviles was *Lodowick*, whose ambition induced him to squander large sums, in the reign of Elizabeth, in constructing a castle on this manor. The spot he chose was a hill at a short distance from the ancient manor house, on which he bestowed the name of Mount Grevile. But his expenditure was so unlimited that his affairs became subject to embarrassment, and he endeavoured to retrieve them by murdering a wealthy farmer, named Webb, and by forging a will in his own favour, purporting to be that of his victim. This villainy was discovered, and Grevile was *pressed to death*, having refused to plead, in order to save the forfeiture of his lands.* The site of the castellated edifice is still perceptible, but the building had fallen to ruins in the 17th century.

HEWELL GRANGE, the seat of the Earl of Plymouth, is situate in a small detached part of the county completely environed by Worcestershire. This estate formerly appertained to the neighbouring monastery of Bordesley, and was, with the site of that religious house, granted, in exchange for other property, to Andrew, Lord Windsor, an ancestor of the present noble owner, by King Henry VIII. The mansion was built early in the 18th century, and is of a spacious and desirable character. The surrounding park possesses an agreeable alternation of hill and vale, and is ornamented with a lake covering nearly thirty acres †.

HENLEY DIVISION

contains the *market town of Henley in Arden*, and the following parishes and hamlets: *Aspley and Fordhall* (hamlet;) *Beaudesert*; *Claverdon*; *Langley* (hamlet;) *Pindley* (hamlet;) *Preston-Bagot*; *Rowington*; *Ullenhall* (hamlet;) *Wooton-Wawen*.

HENLEY

* For further particulars connected with this event see Dug. War, p. 710, et seq. and "Beauties" for Oxfordshire, p. 517.

† A description of this seat and neighbourhood occurs in the "Beauties" for Worcestershire, p. 202.

HENLEY IN ARDEN.

This small town is situated on the high road between Stratford and Birmingham, and is a hamlet to the extensive parish of Wootton Wawen. It is supposed by Dugdale, that this town originated in an assemblage of houses for the accommodation of persons attending the market held at the neighbouring castle of Beaudesert; but the name, composed of the British *Hen*, old, and *Ley*, a place, would appear to argue a more remote period of foundation. There is, however, no mention of Henley in Domesday; and the first notice of the town occurs in a legal instrument drawn in the reign of Henry II.

Peter de Montfort procured, in the fifth of Henry III. the grant of a weekly market, and an annual fair to last two days; but the rising fortunes of the town soon experienced a calamitous check; for, about the time of the battle of Evesham, a conflict so fatal to the de Montfort family, this place was exposed to conflagration. That it speedily recovered from the effects of this severe visitation is evident; for in the 24th of Edward I. Henley is termed a borough; and in the 10th of Edward III. the market was so well attended, and the town in so prosperous a condition, that the inhabitants obtained from the king a licence to take toll on vendible commodities brought for sale, for the term of three years, to assist in defraying the charge of paving the streets.

The Boteler family were lords of this manor in the 15th century; and Sir Ralph Boteler, Lord Sudley, in the 27th of Henry VI. obtained, among other privileges, a confirmation of the weekly market, and a grant for two annual fairs.

The same Sir Ralph Boteler, Lord Sudley, likewise founded a gild in the church, or chapel, of Henley, to which belonged four priests, who were to pray for the founder's soul. "In the 26th of Henry VI." says Dugdale, "there was an hospital here built for the relief of poor people and strangers. Some think that the *Gild-House*,

House, situated on the north side of the chapel, is the hospital here spoken of."

The chapel of Henley is a neat and eligible structure, chiefly erected in the reign of Edward III. In the market place are the remains of a cross, with three ranges of kneeling places. The embellishments surmounting the shaft are now mutilated, but three pieces of sculpture still remain in as many ornamented niches. Two of these represent the Holy Trinity and the Crucifixion. The third consists of a figure, probably intended for St. Peter.

Henley in Arden has a weekly market and three annual fairs. According to the returns made to Parliament in 1811, the population and number of houses in this town were then as follow:—houses inhabited, 242; houses uninhabited, 12; total of inhabitants, 1,055.

In the close vicinity of Henley is BEAUDESERT, or BELDESERT. Here was a strong castle, erected by Thurstane de Montfort shortly after the Norman Conquest. This fortified place continued to be the chief residence of the founder's descendants for many ages; but it was dismantled (being then unoccupied) in the early part of the war between the houses of York and Lancaster. Scarcely any traces of the site of this once-formidable structure can now be discovered. The church is rendered interesting by some remains of Saxon, or early Norman, architecture at the eastern end.

In the neighbourhood of Beaudesert was born, in the year 1715, Richard Jago, whose father was for some time rector of this parish. Mr. Jago was educated at Solihull school, and was afterwards entered a servitor of University College, Oxford. Here he was much noticed by many persons who were his superiors in rank, and was fortunate in maturing a friendship with the celebrated Shenstone. Having taken orders, Mr. Jago served the cure of Snitterfield, in this county, and shortly entered into a matrimonial connection with a lady whose virtues and affection

formed the chief joys of his future life. Soon after his marriage he was presented to two small contiguous livings; and, at a subsequent period, obtained the vicarage of Snitterfield, to which place he removed, and bestowed on the limited grounds attached to his residence many of those tasteful improvements for which he had acquired a relish by habits of friendly communication with Shenstone. In this elegant retirement Mr. Jago composed various poems, which are calculated to convey a favourable opinion of his literary talent, and which speak, in nearly every line, the tenderness and liberality of his sentiments. It is pleasing to find that the real worth of this amiable poet was not neglected. Lord Willoughby de Broke, who, by adjacency of residence, had opportunity of appreciating his merits, presented him, in 1771, to the valuable living of Kilmcote; an advancement peculiarly acceptable, as Mr. Jago's family was large. He died in 1781, in the sixty-sixth year of his age, and was buried at Snitterfield. His principal writings are "Edge Hill," a poem in blank verse; "The Blackbirds;" "The Swallows and Goldfinches;" and "The Fable of Labour and Genius," the subject of which was suggested by Shenstone.*

WOOTTON WAWEN acquires the second part of its appellation from a person termed *Wagen*, or *Wawen*, a man of some note, who was possessed of this lordship before the Norman Conquest. On the accession of William I. Wootton was bestowed on one of his adherents, who chose Stafford for his principal seat, and, assuming a surname from thence, has usually been termed Robert de Stadford, or Stafford. The descendants of this Robert attained high distinction, and the manor of Wootton continued in their possession until the attainder of Edward, Duke of Buckingham, in the reign of Henry VIII. At a period briefly subsequent it passed to the family of Smythe. Sir Charles Smythe was created Baron Carrington, of Wootton, by Charles I. in 1643, but

For further particulars concerning the Life and Writings of this amiable man and pleasing poet, see "The Cabinet of Poetry," Vol. VI.

but the title became extinct in the year 1705. The present representative of this respectable family is Sir Edward Snythe, Bart. who has here a handsome and commodious mansion.

At Wootton Wawen was a small Benedictine Priory, cell to the Abbey of Conches, in Normandy. This was founded by the de Stafford family, soon after their acquiring possession of the manor. We have already observed that the alien priories were subject to continual severe visitations from the reigning political power. After experiencing many vicissitudes, the revenues of this cell were appended, by Henry VI. to his great collegiate foundation at Cambridge.

PINDLEY, or PINLEY, situate to the north-east of the village of Claverdon, was formerly distinguished by a Benedictine nunnery, founded by R. de Pilardinton, shortly after the Conquest. This was, however, far from an extensive establishment, and was valued, at the Dissolution, according to Dugdale, at 22*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.* above all reprises. Margery Wigston was the last prioress, and she obtained an allowance of 4*l.* *per annum* during life. Some remains of the building are still to be seen, attached to an agricultural abode.

HEMLINGFORD HUNDRED

occupies the northern portion of the county, and is subject to four divisions, termed *Birmingham*; *Tamworth*; *Atherstone*; and *Solihull*. The Roman Icknield, or Ryknild, Street, passes through various parts of this hundred on the west; as does the Watling Street on the north-east.

BIRMINGHAM DIVISION

comprises the three market towns of *Birmingham*,* *Coleshill*, and *Sutton Coldfield*, and the following parishes and township: — *Curdworth*; *Minworth* (township,) *Sheldon*; *Wishaw*, with *Moxhall*.

T 2

BIRMINGHAM

* The town of Birmingham, with its suburban parishes Aston and Edgbaston, possesses separate jurisdiction.

BIRMINGHAM.

This important manufacturing town, which is distinguished in the commercial annals of Great Britain for a spirit of enterprize united with habits of perseverance; for the rare association of a genius to invent and a hand to execute; is situate in the north-west extremity of Warwickshire, in a kind of peninsula which is bordered by parts of the counties of Stafford and Worcester.

The name of this place is often pronounced *Brummicham*; and those who condescend to such a popular mode of pronunciation may be, in some shape, defended by an appeal to old writings, where the word is frequently spelled *Brumwycheham*, or *Bromwychem*. It has been supposed that the original name of the town was partly formed in allusion to the natural growth of the shrub termed *Broom* on its site; and it may be observed that two other places in the neighbourhood bear the name of *Bromwich*.

The first writers who notice Birmingham mention the success with which the inhabitants cultivate the manufacture of articles of an iron fabric; and Mr. Hutton, the historian of this populous and most industrious town, labours to establish the belief of such a trade existing here as early as the time of the ancient Britons. The chief arguments in favour of this conjectural opinion are comprised in the following observations: "Upon the borders of the parish stands Aston Furnace, appropriated for melting iron-stone, and reducing it into pigs: this has the appearance of great antiquity. From the melted ore in this subterranean region of infernal aspect is produced a calx, or cinder, of which there is an enormous mountain. From an attentive survey the observer would suppose so prodigious a heap could not accumulate in one hundred generations; however, it shows no perceptible addition in the age of man.

"There is, also, a common of vast extent, called Wednesbury Old Field, in which are the vestiges of many hundreds of coal-pits,

pits, long in disuse, which the curious antiquarian would deem as long in sinking, as the mountain of cinders in rising." *

Birmingham, from its situation between Wall (Etocetum) and Alcester (Alauna) is thought to have been a station on the Roman Icknield, or Ryknild, Street; but no vestiges of Roman fortification are to be discovered.

It appears that Birmingham was a place of some consideration in the time of the Saxons, as William de Birmingham, Lord of this manor, proved, in the year 1309, that his ancestors had the privilege of a market here before the Conquest †. But, in the Norman Survey, this place is merely rated for four hides of land, and woods of half a mile in length, and four furlongs in width; the whole being valued at xxs. At a very early period the lordship became vested in a family who assumed a surname from this possession, and who appear to have liberally protected the interests of the town. Peter de Birmingham obtained a grant for a weekly market on the Thursday, in the reign of Henry II. and William de Birmingham procured, in the time of Henry III. charters for two yearly fairs. A license to take toll, for the term of three years, on every article sold in the market, towards the expense of *paving the streets* of Birmingham, was obtained, through the influence of Audomore de Valance, Earl of Pembroke, in 1319. But it would seem that the town was not then in a very flourishing condition, as, on this toll proving insufficient, the work was suffered to lie dormant for eighteen years. A second licence for the term of three years was afterwards obtained, and the work was then completed. The de Birmingham family remained possessed of the manorial rights till the reign of Henry VIII. and resided in a moated house about sixty yards south of St. Martiu's church. The moat is still partly remaining, but the castle has been long supplanted by the residence of a manufacturer. ‡

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* Hutton's History of Birmingham, p. 23.

† Antiquities of Warwickshire, p. 399.

‡ The site of the ancient manorial-house has been recently purchased of

Thomas

Through the centuries occurring between the period of the Norman Conquest and the civil war in the time of Charles I. the inhabitants appear to have steadily attended to the labours of the anvil, without interfering in either of the great political questions which divided so many parts of the island; except that, in the reign of Henry III. William de Birmingham led some few of the tenants of his lordship to the field of Evesham, where they fought unsuccessfully on the side of the barons. But, notwithstanding the laborious temper of the inhabitants, Birmingham made but few advances, during these ages, to high commercial consequence, or greatness of population. The aspect and character of the place in the reign of Henry VIII. are thus noticed by Leland:—"The beauty of Birmingham, a good market town in the extreme parts of Warwickshire, is one streete, going up alonge, almost from the left ripe of the brooke, up a meane hill, by the length of a quarter of a mile.

"There be many smithes in the town, that use to make knives and all manner of cutting tools; and many loriners that make bittes; and a great many naylers; so that a great part of the town is maintained by smithes, who have their iron and sea-coal out of Staffordshire."

In the disastrous civil war of the seventeenth century Birmingham sided with the Parliament. King Charles was here in the year 1642; but so active was the dislike entertained towards him by the inhabitants that when his majesty quitted the town, they seized the carriages containing the royal plate, and conveyed them to Warwick Castle. In the ensuing year Prince Rupert, with a detachment of 2000 men, was ordered to open a communication between Oxford and York. At Birmingham a single company of foot, aided by a troop of horse from Lichfield, denied him entrance, and hastily threw up slight works for the defence of the place.

These

Thomas Francis, Esq. by the Commissioners under the Lamp and Scavenger's Act; and it is intended to construct on this spot a market for cattle, horses, swine, &c. The moat is to be completely filled up, and the buildings entirely taken down.

These barriers were soon broken, but the prince still found some difficulty in advancing, as the inhabitants had filled with carriages the deep and narrow road by which he wished to gain access. He therefore entered by another avenue. The inhabitants, and their military assistants, opposed him on each occasion with much bravery; but their numbers were too small for efficient resistance; and, after a running fight maintained with great spirit through the streets, the Parliamentary party left the town to the mercy of their assailants. In the course of this series of tumultuous conflicts, William Fielding, Earl of Denbigh, a volunteer under the prince, was killed by a random shot. On the other side a clergyman, who acted as governor, was slain in the Red Lion Inn, having refused quarter from those who seized him. Prince Rupert, incensed by the vigorous, but hopeless, resistance he had experienced, set fire to several houses, and levied a heavy fine on the towns-people.

In the year 1665, this place experienced, in a dreadful degree, the disease emphatically termed the plague. The bodies of the numerous victims were conveyed for interment to Lady Wood Green, an acre of waste land since denominated the Pest Ground.

We have hitherto seen Birmingham respectable for industry, but limited in extent. Her laborious habits, unaccompanied by striking genius, or activity of speculation, have not yet lifted her above the level of such a society of mere smiths as were seen working at the forge by the observant Leland. The restoration of monarchy in the person of Charles II. is the period from which Birmingham dates her great rise in commercial prosperity.* Implements of husbandry, tools used in carpentry, and such coarse articles of iron manufacture, had, till now, chiefly engrossed the

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attention

* It is traditionally said that the increase of the town in the reign of Charles II. was in a great degree owing to what was termed the *Five Mile Act*, which drove the Nonconformist preachers from corporate towns. In Birmingham these ejected ministers found an asylum; and their congregations following them, added considerably to the population of the place.

attention of the artizan. The reign of the second Charles, a long holiday after the troubles of civil contest, produced a relaxation in public manners, and a demand for those embellishments of luxury, which may be termed the playthings of elegant habit. In this reign the *toy trade* was first cultivated in Birmingham. Industry, the great basis of successful effort, was already the possession of the natives. Encouragement stimulated genius; and the trade has since been carried to an extent unprecedented in the annals of manufacture, and productive not only of local wealth, but of national pride.

From the Restoration to the present time the history of Birmingham is happily comprised in a view of its progress in arts, buildings, population, and commercial opulence, with the exception of one lamentable instance of a turbulent and most dangerous spirit in the lower classes. On Thursday, July 14, 1791, about eighty-one persons of various denominations assembled at the hotel, in this town, to celebrate the anniversary of the French Revolution. A mob collected; and the party assembled for the celebration prudently retired. But the populace, not content with this moderate triumph, broke the windows of the hotel; and, their numbers increasing, they proceeded to acts of more serious violence, encouraging each other in the work of devastation by clamours, fantastically expressive of a love of church, king, and good order! The horrors of a popular ferment in a place containing such numerous throngs of artizans, to whom riot was as a festival when once it was set on foot, may be readily imagined. The idle and the vicious issued from every alley of the town; and, joining the cry of "No false Rights of man!" stimulated the inflamed and thoughtless congregation of labourers to such undertakings as promised most plunder. As the mob professed themselves peculiar friends to the Church of England, they commenced their operations by setting fire to the meeting-house belonging to the celebrated Dr. Priestley. This they soon reduced to ashes; and a second conventicle shared the same fate. They then proceeded to the dwelling of the philosophic and amiable preacher, which was about a mile distant from the town.

Dr.

Dr. Priestley, himself, happily escaped their rage; but they burned his extensive premises; and, we lament to say, that his philosophical-apparatus, and valuable manuscripts (the fruits of many years' labour and observation) perished in the flames!

The mob remained in possession of power for the three following days, though judicious steps were taken by the magistrates to appease the tumult. These horrible days will be long remembered in Birmingham! All business was necessarily at a pause. The principal shops were shut, and no inhabitant deemed himself secure from the visitation of a throng so perniciously compounded of the capricious and the designing. The firebrand spread its ravages in town and country; and many of the rioters, reduced to a state of brutal intoxication by the liquors which they plundered, perished in the flames which themselves had raised. On the evening of Sunday the 17th, military assistance arrived; but the rumour of such an approach was sufficient. This mob had too much ferocity to possess genuine courage; and the despicable concourse, so formidable to the unarmed, slunk quietly away on the slightest appearance of opposition.

Among the ravages committed in this disastrous season, must be noticed the following:—On Friday, the 15th of July, were burned the mansion of John Ryland, Esq. at Easy Hill; Bordesley Hall, the elegant residence of Mr. Taylor; and Mr. Hutton's house, and stock in the paper trade, books, furniture, &c. at Birmingham. On Saturday, the 16th, were destroyed the house and furniture of the truly respectable Mr. Hutton, at Saltley, the country residence of that gentleman; the residence of George Humphreys, Esq. and that of William Russell, Esq. of Showel Green; Moseley Hall, a seat occupied by the venerable Lady Carhampton, who was enfeebled and blind through age. Five other houses were also burned in the course of this day.

Sunday the 17th was ushered to notice by the destruction of King's Wood meeting-house; and, on the same day, besides other devastation, the mob plundered Edgbaston Hall, the residence of Dr. Withering.

This

Birmingham, including the parishes of Aston and Edgbaston, was then 14,528; and of uninhabited houses, 1875.* The same returns state the total of persons to be 73,670.

The returns under the population act for 1811, make the numbers as follow, including, as in the previous instance, the two suburban parishes: houses inhabited, 16,653; houses uninhabited, 278; houses building, 140; total of inhabitants, 85,753.

The inland situation of Birmingham was unfavourable to the first views of commercial interchange on a large scale; and not any navigable river flows near the confines of the town. But industry and art have supplied every deficiency. From Birmingham, as from a centre, twelve roads proceed to as many towns; and considerable improvements have lately taken place in the whole of these thoroughfares. The introduction of canal navigation is, however, the great auxiliary to the commerce of the place. By this mode of conveyance a communication is now effected on easy terms with the metropolis and most of the principal trading places in the island. The benefits arising from such a facility of interchange are calculated, in a season favourable to manufacture, to lift Birmingham to a prouder height than it has even yet attained, or ventured to anticipate.

Many improvements have been latterly effected in the interior of the town, in consequence of acts obtained in the years 1769, and 1801, "for lighting, watching, and paving the streets; and for removing obstructions that were prejudicial to the health or convenience of the inhabitants." As Birmingham does not possess an incorporated magistracy, the right of interfering with the obstructions here noticed remained with the person exercising the manorial privileges, before the obtention of the above acts; and such a power must needs be supposed inadequate to the correction of abuses likely to occur in the disposal of buildings formed by so numerous a population. The town is now fairly lighted; but it is to be regretted that so prosperous a place should yet have to perform the necessary work of paving the foot-ways with flag-stone.

* This return includes houses then building.

Among

Among the internal improvements which have lately been effected it must be observed that several buildings which encumbered the bull-ring, or market-place, have been removed; and in an eligible part of this area was erected, in 1809, a good statue of the brave and successful naval commander, Lord Nelson, executed by Westmacot.

A town not possessing a charter of incorporation, fails to present such a variety of public structures as would appear suited to its magnitude or resources. The following are the principal buildings dedicated to religious use, to charitable purposes, or to public amusement.

St. Martin's Church is situate at the upper end of Digbeth, and in the immediate vicinity of the corn-market. "It has been remarked," says Mr. Hutton, "that the antiquity of this church is too remote for historical light."* We presume that the venerable historian alludes to the foundation of a church on this site, as the most ancient part of the present structure cannot be ascribed to an earlier period than the 13th century. This building was originally formed of stone, but in the year 1690, the whole of the edifice, except the spire, was cased with brick. The alterations and repairs, effected at different periods, are lamentably inconsistent with the ancient and untouched character of the lower portion of the spire.

This church underwent many alterations, and a thorough repair, at the expense of more than 4000*l.* in 1786. At this time the interior was entirely renovated; but it is to be regretted that the inclination to *beautify* should have led those entrusted with the care of the works, to treat with little respect some monuments intended to perpetuate the memory of several of the ancient Lords of Birmingham. These monuments sustain recumbent effigies, but have not any inscription. The furniture of the church is respectable and appropriate; and the steeple is provided with twelve musical bells.

Until

* History of Birmingham, p. 327.

Until the early part of the eighteenth century Birmingham remained one parish. A triangular portion of the town, covering about one hundred acres, was then divided from the rest, and constituted a separate parochial district, by the name of *St. Philip's*. A church for the new parish was begun, by act of Parliament, in 1711, and was completed in 1719. This structure stands on elevated ground, and is judiciously placed in an open area, calculated to display to much advantage its claims to architectural beauty. The appendant yard, or cemetery, occupies four acres, and is planted with numerous trees. The building is of an embellished, but chaste and elegant, character. The steeple on the west is surmounted by a cupola; for many hints in the design of which the architect was evidently indebted to the splendid fabric of St. Paul's, in London. The interior is conspicuous for a tasteful union of simplicity with decoration. In the vestry is a theological library, bequeathed by the first rector, William Higgs, for the use of the clergy in Birmingham and its vicinity. Mr. Higgs also left the sum of 200*l.* for a future purchase; and a handsome library adjoining the parsonage-house was erected by the Rev. Mr. Madan, in 1792.

A third church, termed the *Free* (or *Christ*) *Church*, is now building; and the interior is so far completed that the structure is opened for divine worship. This additional edifice is designed for the accommodation of the lower classes, which, in such a town, must be much too numerous to find seats in the churches formerly deemed sufficient. The liberal good sense which promoted such an undertaking cannot be too much praised.

The Free Church is suitably plain, both in its external and interior features; but it will be readily believed sufficiently substantial, when we observe that nearly 20,000*l.* have been already expended on the buildings. A portico and steeple, to complete the structure, are now in an advanced state of progress. His Majesty had condescendingly intended to lay the first stone of this edifice, but was induced to depute the office to the late Earl of Dartmouth. He, however graciously presented

presented the trustees with the sum of 1000*l.* towards the furtherance of the building.

Birmingham, likewise, contains five *Chapels* for the exercise of the established religion.

St. John's Chapel, Deritend, although now encompassed by the extended streets of Birmingham, is, in fact, a chapel of ease to the parish of Aston. This chapelry was founded in the year 1352; but the ancient building having fallen to decay, the body of the present structure, which is a commodious and respectable place of worship, was erected in 1735. A square tower at the western end was added in 1762.

St. Bartholomew's Chapel, situated on the east side of the town, is calculated to accommodate about 800 persons. This building was raised in the year 1749, and is chiefly remarkable for the circumstance of not standing due east and west. The chancel inclines considerably towards the north.

In consequence of the great increase of the population of the town, an Act of Parliament was obtained in 1772 for the erection of two additional chapels. These are termed *St. Mary's* and *St. Paul's*. The chapel dedicated to St. Mary is of an octagonal form, but destitute of all pretensions to architectural beauty. St. Paul's chapel is a respectable stone building, though not completed according to the original design. At the west is a low square tower, intended to support an ornamental spire or steeple; but the inhabitants have hitherto wanted public spirit to carry this intention into effect. The interior is fitted up in a manner peculiarly plain, with the exception of the window over the communion table, which is filled with painted glass, executed by Francis Eginton, and expressive of different passages in the story of St. Paul.

The Chapel, dedicated to *St. James*, is formed from a mansion erected some years back, by Dr. Ash, an eminent physician of Birmingham, on land leased to him by Sir Lister Holt, Bart. This intended residence was not completed; and, in the year 1810, the building was consecrated, and converted to its present use, after undergoing suitable alterations.

There are twenty meeting-houses for various classes of dissenters; and one Jewish synagogue.

The *Free-School* is an extensive and noble foundation, for which the inhabitants are indebted to the piety of King Edward VI. and the good sense of his advisers. The history of this establishment is connected with that of a *Gild* founded at Birmingham in the year 1389, and termed the *Gild of the Holy Cross*. On the dissolution of such fraternities, in the reign of Henry VIII. the revenues of this association were valued at 314 2s. 10d. The lands continued vested in the Crown till 1559, when King Edward VI. assigned them to certain inhabitants of Birmingham, for the foundation of a grammar-school; and so great has been the increase in the value of landed property in this neighbourhood, that the annual produce is now more than 2000*l*. The present building was erected in the early part of the eighteenth century, and is a spacious, ornamental, and well-adapted structure. Seven Exhibitioners are sent to the University of Oxford; and several inferior schools, in different parts of the town, are supported by the flourishing finances of this establishment.

The *CHARITY, or BLUE-COAT-SCHOOL*, is supported by voluntary subscription. The buildings are extensive and eligible. The income of this laudable institution amounted, in the year 1813, to 1327*l*. 17s. 7d. One hundred and fifty orphan boys, and forty girls, are here maintained and educated.

There is, also, a *Dissenting Charity School*, for females only, which is well supported, and conducted with great discretion. The *Sunday Schools* are numerous, and are calculated to produce important benefits to the lower orders of so thickly-populated a town.

It is with much pleasure that we do not close the list of establishments for gratuitous education, without being enabled to state that large seminaries have been instituted on the plans of Lancaster and Dr. Bell. The school, framed on the system of the former person, was opened in 1809, for the instruction of four hundred boys; and, under the direction of *Mr. John Veivers* (who is now employed in the organization of schools,

on the same principle, throughout Ireland,) this establishment has attained a degree of perfection calculated to render it a model for institutions of the same very useful nature. About 400 boys, and 130 girls, receive education according to the system of Dr. Bell. For the use of this institution a spacious building was completed in the year 1813.

A *General Hospital* at Birmingham was commenced in the year 1766; but, although the walls of the building were then erected, the completion of the design was impeded for twelve years. After that period of interruption the humane instigators of the undertaking were enabled to carry their wishes into effect. The building was augmented by two wings, in the year 1790; and now ranks amongst the most ornamental fabrics of the town, while it gratefully proclaims the liberality of the inhabitants. The annual subscriptions, and the dividends on the funded property possessed by this institution, amounted, in the year 1813, to 1945*l.* and the legacies to 1309*l.* The number of patients admitted and discharged in the same year exceeded 1500.

A handsome building was raised in the year 1808, and appropriated to the use of a *Dispensary*. This charity is supported by voluntary contributions. The subscription for the year 1813 amounted to 600*l.*; and the legacies, and other donations, were at the same time stated at near 1200*l.*

A central Society was formed here in the year 1813, for the *Education of the Deaf and Dumb*. This institution embraces, in the liberality of its intentions, most of the midland counties; and is under the direction of Mr. Braidwood, son of the ingenious founder of a system for the communication of new ideas to a class of afflicted mortals, long considered beyond the pale of human assistance. Fifteen subjects have already been admitted to the benefit of tuition.

In the reign of Henry VIII. William Lench, a native of Birmingham, bequeathed his estate for the purpose of erecting *almshouses*, and for the repair of the streets of the town. The finances of this charity are at present so flourishing, that the trustees have

been enabled to add to the number of tenements for the reception of the poor.

The *Theatre* is a building correspondent in size and character to the population and opulence of the place. The front is a handsome elevation, judiciously airy and inviting; and the interior is arranged with considerable taste. This place of rational amusement is joined by a tavern and hotel, comprising an elegant assembly-room, in which are also held periodical concerts, patronized by the most respectable inhabitants of the town.

A *Public Library* at Birmingham was commenced in the year 1779; but this desirable institution moved in a tardy progress, until aided by the advice and assistance of Dr. Priestley, in 1782. Since that period it has progressively advanced in estimation, and a handsome building has been erected, from a design by Mr. William Hollins, of Birmingham. The collection of books consists of about 20,000 volumes, many of which are of considerable rarity and value.

Another *Public Library* has been instituted, which has nearly four hundred subscribers, and is in an improving condition. This is designated the *New Library*.

A *Philosophical Society* has also been formed; and a building is set apart for experiments in chemistry, and other scientific pursuits. The fellows of this institution occasionally deliver public lectures, which are well attended.

It will necessarily be expected that the persons thrown helpless on society by imbecile old age, or early youth, must be numerous in a town possessing so large a population. For the reception of these a spacious *Workhouse* was erected in 1733, to which several additions have been made at different periods.

A new Prison, on a judicious plan, was built in 1806, at the expense of 9000*l*. Towards the front are spacious rooms, used for the meetings of the county magistrates, and for other business of a public nature.

Barracks, capable of receiving 162 men, were erected in 1793.

The

The trade and manufactures of this great town engross a spacious field, on which it is our province to touch only lightly. We have observed that the anvil employed the hand of the industrious inhabitant at the earliest period in which Birmingham is noticed in the page of the topographer; and that the restoration of Charles II. was the period that imparted a stimulus to ingenuity, and suggested those varieties of invention which have now rendered the name of Birmingham familiar in nearly every clime visited by the sail of the British merchant. It appears that, until the middle of the last century, the Birmingham manufacturer was content to stay at home, and patiently wait for the visits of such dealers as held his articles in request; but, about that period, a more extended system of traffic obtained. He then began to employ the merchant as the vender of his goods; and, speedily profiting by experience, he has since deputed persons, connected with his own firm, to dispose of his produce at every accessible market. The increasing prosperity of the place evinces the propriety of the course pursued by its industrious inhabitants. The manufactures of Birmingham are considerably indebted to the exertions of a spirited individual, the late Mr. John Taylor, who introduced the gilt button, the painted, japanned, and gilt snuff-boxes, and the numerous variety of enamelled articles. Mr. Taylor died in 1775. The manufacture of steel was first practised at Birmingham in the seventeenth century.

The manufacture of guns was commenced by a person residing in Digbeth, in the reign of William III. This profitable and important trade is cultivated with such eminent success, that between six and seven thousand muskets have for some time been forwarded weekly to government. To the great benefit of the persons engaged in this manufacture, a *Proof-House*, or office for the trying and proving of gun-barrels, was established at Birmingham in 1813.

The manufacture of brass was introduced to this town about the year 1740. The trade was at first confined to a few opulent

individuals ; but numerous brass-works have been erected within the last thirty years ; and this branch of manufacture is now cultivated on liberal principles of competition, equally to the benefit of the town, and the accommodation of the public at large.

The immense establishment of Messrs. Boulton and Watt, at Soho, (situate in the county of Stafford, at the distance of about one mile and a half from Birmingham,) communicates many advantages to the trade of this place, and is in itself a prominent object of national interest. For an historical notice of this stupendous assemblage of manufactories, we refer the reader to the " Beauties" for Staffordshire.*

In thus briefly alluding to the commencement, and progress of the principal trades cultivated in Birmingham, we merely attempt to convey an idea of the general character of her manufactures and pursuits. An enumeration of the various classes of manufacture ingrafted on these original stocks, would afford matter for a distinct and extensive volume. The failure of intercourse with the United States has lately been felt severely by the manufacturing interest, (and in that interest the whole town is involved ;) but fresh wharfs are still constructing on the sides of the canals, those great liquid roads which so eminently conduce to the prosperity of the place ! And Birmingham is at present not only augmenting in size, but appears to possess, in its own ingenuity, resources to employ and sustain its increasing population.

A great portion of the success of Birmingham in commercial pursuits has been attributed to its freedom from charteral laws. The possession of industry is here a sufficient qualification for its exercise ; and talent supplies the place of birth-right. The internal polity of this great town is yet directed by two constables, annually chosen, and by the following officers, (also elected yearly,) who are, in fact, no more than servants to the lord of the manor :

A High Bailiff.

Low Bailiff.

Headborough.

* P. 638, et seq.

Headborough.

Two High Tasters.

Two Low Tasters.

Two Affeirs.

Two Leather-Sealers.

The high-bailiff is to inspect the markets. The low-bailiff summons a jury, who choose all the other officers. The headborough acts as assistant to the constables. The high-tasters examine the beer, as to quality and measure; and the low-tasters inspect the meat exposed to sale. The affeirs ratify the rent and amercements between the lord and his tenants. The leather-sealers are now only nominal officers; for though Birmingham was once a noted market for leather, and abounded with tanners, the trade fell into disuse at the early part of the last century.

In consideration of the multifarious pecuniary disagreements of a minor character, which must necessarily occur in so extensive a population, the chief inhabitants procured, in 1752, an act for the recovery of debts under forty shillings. By this act twenty-two commissioners were appointed, three to be a quorum. These commissioners hold periodical meetings for the dispatch of business, and their determinations are final. Two clerks attend the court, who retain the situation for life, and are chosen alternately by the lord of the manor and the commissioners.—By an Act of Parliament obtained in 1807, the power of this court was extended to the cognizance of all debts not exceeding the sum of five pounds.

The principal weekly market at Birmingham is still held, as at the earliest period, on the Thursday. It is to be regretted that so populous and thriving a town is destitute of an eligible market-place. Corn is sold by sample at the Bull-Ring; and the whole area of the spot so denominated is crowded on the market-day with stalls, for the sale of vegetables, and different articles of country produce. But the ample supplies of every kind demand a larger place of sale; and various distant and inconve-

nient parts of the town are chosen for the offer of other marketable articles.

A market on the Tuesday, for the sale of hay, was opened in 1791. There is one annual fair for cattle; and there are, likewise, several wakes annually held for amusement, on the borders of the town.

Richard Smallbroke, Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, was born at Birmingham in the early part of the last century. This prelate was much respected in his diocese, and was the author of several literary works, one of the most celebrated of which is "A Treatise in Vindication of the Miracles of Jesus:" written in consequence of the attack made by Woolston.

The immediate vicinity of Birmingham is rendered of an interesting and ornamental character, by numerous small allotments of garden-ground, which afford a healthful and pleasing amusement to such of the inhabitants as are compelled, by their trading pursuits, to reside in the populous and confined streets of the town. There are, likewise, many public gardens and bowling-greens, respectively suited to the manners and disposition of every class.

The surrounding country is, at many points, diversified and picturesque; and is embellished by numerous villas belonging to the principal persons of this great town. Perhaps the critical examiner would be tempted to suggest alterations in the architectural arrangement of some of these retreats; but many are conspicuous for size and real elegance.

At the distance of about two miles from Birmingham, on the south-west, is **EDGBASTON-HALL**. A mansion on this site, which had long been the residence of the Middlemore family, was garrisoned by some of the Parliamentary troops in the civil war of the seventeenth century. The same building was burned to the ground by the populace of Birmingham, in the days immediately antecedent to the *Revolution*; lest it should be used as a place of refuge for Papists! The present structure was erected

in the year 1717, by Sir H. Gough, who purchased the Edg-
baston estate of the heirs of the Middlemore family, for the sum
of 25,000*l*. This is a spacious dwelling, though by no means
conspicuous for architectural beauty.

ASTON-HALL, situate about two miles from Birmingham, to-
wards the north-east, is an extensive and commanding edifice,
erected by Sir Thomas Holt, Bart. in the reigns of James
the First, and his successor. This worthy baronet was among
the most faithful of those who adhered to the royal cause,
through all the troubles of the seventeenth century. Though too
far advanced in life to be himself serviceable in the field, his son
attended in arms on the person of the king; and Sir Thomas
had the honour of entertaining his royal master at this mansion
for two nights, shortly previous to the battle of Edgehill. His
loyalty exposed him to severe persecution. At different times
heavy fines were levied on him, and his residence was plundered.
The marks of a cannon-ball are still preserved on a staircase at
Aston, as a triumphant memorial of the constancy of the ancient
owner of the domain. In a large gallery, and in several other
apartments of this fine and interesting mansion, are many family
portraits. The estate is now the property of Heneage Legge,
Esq.

An almshouse was appointed and endowed at Aston by the
above Sir Thomas Holt, Bart. for five men and five women. The
building was erected by his grandson in 1655.

SUTTON COLDFIELD.

This town is situate near that north-west border of the county
which communicates with Staffordshire. Although Sutton is placed
in a meagre soil, and has a contiguous spread of waste land prover-
bially bleak and cheerless, the neighbourhood is still fertile and
kind in the antiquary's opinion. Mr. Shaw, in his History of

Staffordshire, supposes the Arch-Druid of Britain to have had his chief seat in this vicinity;* and the two Roman roads, termed the Icknield, or Ryknild, Street, and the Ridgeway, pursue their course at a short distance from the town.

But, while the town of Sutton is thus bordered by antiquities of the most interesting description, it does not in itself present any memorials of a very remote day. William the Conqueror held the lordship in his own hands; but Henry I. passed it from the Crown to Roger, Earl of Warwick. By a subsequent agreement, however, a yearly rent was appropriated to the service of the king. Guy de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, obtained, in the 28th of Edward I. the grant of a weekly market on the Tuesday; and a yearly fair to last four days. But, in the reign of Henry VII. it appears that this market was utterly forsaken, and the town was quickly proceeding to a state of ruin and desertion, when its fortunes revived in the person of a successful native, John Vesey, Bishop of Exeter. This prelate, who acquired affluence in the busy times of the eighth Henry, devoted a great portion of his wealth to the succour of the place which had afforded him birth; and to the liberality of his benefactions the town is at present indebted for its principal advantages. An extensive district, comprehending the park of the ancient lords of the manor, and a portion of the *Chace*, which they had engrossed for the sports of the field, he bestowed on the poor of Sutton Coldfield, for the purpose of pasturage. He procured for the town a charter of incorporation; built a moot-hall and a market-place; paved the principal avenues; founded and endowed a free-school; and expended considerable sums in embellishing and making additions to the parish church. He likewise endeavoured to confer the most solid benefit on his native place, by introducing the clothing manufacture, and by building many houses to be free for such as followed that pursuit. These houses
yet

* For a statement of Mr. Shaw's opinion on this subject, see "Beauties," for Staffordshire, p. 724, et seq.

yet remain a monument of his liberal intention, but they have long ceased to be occupied by such manufacturers as it was originally his wish to encourage.

The town of Sutton-Coldfield has a neat appearance, and contains many dwellings of an ornamental character. Some manufactures connected with Birmingham have been introduced within the last century, much to the advantage of the inhabitants.

The church is a handsome structure, comprising a nave, chancel, and two side aisles. The aisles were built by Bishop Vesey, in the latter part of the reign of Henry VIII. The nave, which was ancient and decayed, was taken down, and rebuilt in its present form about the middle of the last century. The cemetery of this church possesses a peculiarity of soil, which is found to consume the bodies placed therein with unusual quickness.*

Pertinacious in his aversion to the clergy of the reformed church, the Bishop of Exeter, when he founded his grammar-school in this town, directed that the master should be a layman; and it is observable that Laurence Noel, whom Camden celebrates for his great learning, was nominated master, in the life-time of the founder, but was persecuted by the trustees into a resignation when he had filled the office little more than one year. The school-house was rebuilt in 1728. The power of choosing a master is vested in the corporation.

The municipal power, according to the constitution procured by Bishop Vesey, consists of a warden, twenty-four assistants, a town-clerk, steward, &c. The warden for the time being is the coroner. This is a royal town, and has a separate jurisdiction. The weekly market is on the Monday; and there are two annual fairs. The returns under the Population Act for 1811, state the number of houses and inhabitants as follows: houses inhabited, 598; houses uninhabited 19; houses building 2; total of persons, 2,959.

John Vesey, otherwise Harman, Bishop of Exeter, was born at

* For many particulars connected with this peculiarity, see *Gentleman's Magazine* for Sept. 1762.

at Sutton-Coldfield, and educated at Magdalen College, Oxford. His talents and activity introduced him to the notice of the court, at a time when able men were so much wanted for clerical offices. By Henry VIII. he was made dean of the Chapel Royal; tutor to the Princess Mary; and President of Wales. In the 11th year of the same king he was advanced to the bishoprick of Exeter. He is said to have been a florid preacher, and was unquestionably an excellent scholar. But his bigotted opposition to the progress of the Reformation has subjected him to great censure from many writers. It is certain, that he endeavoured to render the see of Exeter no very desirable possession to his more tolerant successor, by exposing to sale a great portion of the estates appertaining to that bishopric. He was compelled to resign in 1551, but was reinstated by Queen Mary. He, however, soon voluntarily abandoned the see which he had rendered of so little value, and retired to his native town, where, assuredly, he expended the chief part of his extensive gains in such works as evince great public spirit and an ardent attachment to the place of his birth. He died in the year 1555, at the age of 103, and is buried in the church of Sutton.

The extensive district called *the Coldfield* lies to the west of the town of Sutton. This is a bleak and cheerless tract, supposed to comprehend in the whole near 13,000 acres, a great portion of which is in Staffordshire.* The part included in the county of Warwick is chiefly overgrown by gorse and ling. The soil is naturally poor; but, as lime may be procured at no great distance, the whole might be reduced, on easy terms, to a state of profitable cultivation.

Sutton-Park lies to the north-west of the town, and contains about 3,500 acres. This extensive district was granted by Bishop Vesey to the Corporation of Sutton, for the benefit of the poorer inhabitants of that town. Through the park passes the Roman Icknield, or Ryknild, Street, in a high state of beauty and preservation. The inhabitants of Sutton not only find pasturage for
their

* See "Beauties" for Staffordshire, p. 348.

their cattle on this singular common, but also obtain fuel from large beds of peat, in which fragments of trees are continually found, but in so decayed a state, that it is difficult to discover the species to which they belong.

On the east side of Sutton-Park is **FOUR-OAKS-HALL**, the handsome seat of Sir Edmund Cradock Hartop, Bart.

MOXHULL, in the parish of Wishaw, is distant from Sutton-Coldfield about four miles. This manor was long possessed by the L'Isle family, from whom it passed to a son of the eminent and worthy Bishop Hacket, and is now the property of his descendant, Andrew Hacket, Esq. who has here a commodious family residence.

The **TOWN** of **COLESHILL** is built on an ascent, at the foot of which flows the river Cole; and from these circumstances of site the place obviously derives its appellation. The domestic buildings in this town are generally of a respectable character; and there are some modern dwellings which unite ornament with amplitude of dimensions.

Coleshill was one of the towns termed *ancient demesne*, as it formed part of the possessions of Edward the Confessor and of William the Conqueror; but it was disposed of, either by King William or his successor, and quickly passed to the De Clinton family. It appears, from an ancient record, that there was a castle here at a very early period, which Dugdale conjectures to have stood "in a field on the north side of the town, called Grimeshill-Field; for there, on the right hand of the road leading towards Lichfield, have been digged up certain foundations of buildings, accidentally discovered; among which was a Roman copper coin of Trajan, the emperor."*

From the De Clintons the lordship passed by marriage to the Mountfort family, who lost the possession in consequence of the severity of King Henry VII. Sir Simon Mountfort, who had been a constant friend and a faithful subject to the house of York, was one of the numerous persons who believed Perkin

Warbeck

* Antiquities of Warwickshire, p. 1006.

Warbeck to be really the son of the deceased King Edward IV. In consequence of this persuasion, he forwarded to Warbeck a sum of money. For such an offence to the reigning power he was hanged at Tyburn; and, on the confiscation of his property, the manor of Coleshill was granted to Simon Digby, deputy-constable of the Tower, who had officially conducted him to the bar at his hour of trial! This new lord of the town soon fixed his chief residence in the neighbourhood; and his descendants were ennobled in the reign of James I. and have attained eminence in various passages of the national history. They likewise proved desirable patrons to the town in the vicinity of their chief seat; as an instance of which it may be observed, that Robert, Lord Digby, obtained, in the twentieth of James I. new charters for a weekly market on the Wednesday, and for two yearly fairs.

The church of Coleshill is a fine and attractive specimen of the decorated Gothic, or English, style of architecture. This fabric stands on elevated ground; and, on the west, a lofty octagonal spire* springs from an ornamented square tower, strengthened by graduated buttresses. The interior is spacious, and is affluent in well-executed monuments. Beneath two arches are the recumbent effigies of cross-legged knights, probably designed for two of the ancient race of Clinton. The monuments of the Digby family are numerous; and, amongst these, must be noticed one to the memory of Kildare, Lord Digby, Baron of Geashill in Ireland, and his lady, Mary, the daughter of Robert Gardiner, of London, Esq. The inscription to Lady Digby was a tribute from the pen of the celebrated Dr. Hough, Bishop of Worcester, and cannot be read without deep interest. It is couched in simple language, and it commemorates the virtues of simplicity. We here see drawn the character of a truly estimable woman, without any of those fulsome extravagancies of eulogium which

custom

* This spire was originally fifteen feet higher than at present, but was injured by lightning in the year 1550.

custom has rendered too much the etiquette of the tombs, and which defeat their own purpose, because we readily perceive that they are a base and servile homage to the weakness of the living. We regret that the great length of this inscription debars us from presenting a copy of it.

Alice, the widow of Simon Digby, bequeathed, in the twelfth year of Henry VIII. certain rents and possessions for the performance of several ceremonies, which, in an after period, were deemed superstitious, and were therefore abolished. The inhabitants, however, obtained from the Crown a grant of the property, and devoted a part of the yearly profits to the maintenance of a school for the instruction of poor children.

Coleshill has a weekly market, and three annual fairs, at which there is a considerable traffic in cattle and horses. The number of houses and inhabitants is thus stated in the returns under the Population Act for 1811: inhabited houses, 330; houses uninhabited, 14; and one house building: total of inhabitants, 1,639.

Coleshill Park is situate to the west of the town, but the mansion is now entirely taken down. The seat formerly on this spot was long the residence of the Digby family, created Earls of Bristol in the reign of James I. Here was born John, the first Earl, whose embassies were conducted with so much credit to himself, and benefit to his country; and this retired residence also occasionally afforded an interval of peace to the adventurous and unequal life of George, the second Earl, distinguished as a soldier, an orator and a writer; but the decisions of whose judgment were continually sullied by an eccentricity, that appeared the result of a morbid activity of imagination.

The title of Earl of Bristol became extinct in the Digby family on the death of John, the third Earl, in 1698. The present Earl Digby takes the title of viscount from the town of Coleshill.

TAMWORTH DIVISION

consists of part of the market town of TAMWORTH, and the following parishes, townships, &c. *Amington and Stone-Delph* (township;) *Austrey*; *Baddesley-ensor*; *Bolehall and Glascote* (township;) *Grendon*, with *Whittington*; *Kingsbury*; *Middleton*; *Newton Regis*; *Polesworth*; *Seckington*; *Shuttington*; *Tamworth Castle* (liberty) *Wilnecote* (hamlet.)

TAMWORTH.

This town is situate near the confluence of the rivers Tame and Anker, which takes place in the north-west extremity of Warwickshire. Only about one half of Tamworth is in the county of Warwick. The remainder is in Staffordshire; and, in the description of that district, forming a part of the present work, this town has been so fully noticed, * that a brief sketch of its general history, and a statement of statistical particulars relating to the Warwickshire portion, will, we presume, be deemed sufficient in this division of the undertaking.

Tamworth was chosen as an occasional residence of the Mercian kings, at a very early period. Many charters are dated from this royal seat; and here Ethelfleda, the daughter of the great Alfred, and the excellent Lady of the Mercians, died, in the year 918. Little that is memorable occurs, concerning the history of this borough, in the ages briefly following the Norman Conquest. Dugdale observes that the Warwickshire portion of the town "answered two marks for an aid in the 15th of Henry II.; and in the 21st of Henry III. four pounds sixteen shillings, for the Ferm thereof." The town was ancient demesne of the Crown, and continued in the immediate hands of the king till the latter years

* See "Beauties for Staffordshire, p. 822—6.

years of Henry III. when it was let to Philip Marmion, for life. It afterwards reverted to the Crown, and was granted (i. e. the Warwickshire part) by Edward II. to the inhabitants of the borough, with a reservation of an augmented ferme rent.

Queen Elizabeth granted a charter of incorporation, on a scale peculiarly liberal; and constituted Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, the first steward of the borough. In the same reign the weekly market, which had hitherto been held by prescription, was established by charter.

This town is well-built, and the rivers, which adorn its immediate neighbourhood with picturesque meanders, impart fertility to large spreads of meadow land. The most interesting structure in Tamworth is *The Castle*. This building stands on an artificial mount, formerly connected with the *Dungeon* of the Lady Ethelfleda; and an edifice situate nearly on this spot, was bestowed on Robert Marmion, by William the Conqueror. The Marmions remained Lords of the Castle till the 20th of Edward I. when it passed, by the marriage of a daughter and co-heir, to William Mortain, and afterwards to the Frevile family. The family of Ferrers succeeded to the lordship in the reign of Henry VI. and they were followed by the Comptons. The Marquis of Townshend is now proprietor, in right of Lady Charlotte Compton, Baroness de Ferrers, daughter of the Earl of Northampton. The exterior of this venerable castle is still in a good state of preservation, but the inside has suffered much from age and neglect. The rooms are numerous, but ill-suited to the liberal domestic manners of the present era; and the whole fabric is chiefly attractive as a monument of antiquity. In this point of view it is calculated to make a deep and grateful impression on the feelings of the examiner.

The *Church* of Tamworth is an extensive edifice, rich in the peculiarities of architectural style prevailing at several distinct periods. The most ancient portion exhibits two round-headed arches, embellished with zigzag mouldings; and from this circumstance it seems probable that the original edifice was constructed

structed by the Marmions, soon after the Conquest. This building was rendered collegiate by the same family at an early period, and contained a dean and six prebendaries. Several lay-prebendaries are still attached to the church. In different divisions are many handsome monuments. The most conspicuous of these are to various members of the families of Frevile and Ferrers.

Here is an hospital, founded and endowed by Mr. Gay, to whose benevolence the borough of Southwark is under such important obligations; and, in the Staffordshire part of the town, is a grammar school, founded by Queen Elizabeth.

Tamworth enjoys a considerable trade, and cultivates to some extent the manufacture of flax, the spinning of linen yarn, and the printing of calicoes. Some superfine woollen cloths are also made in this town.

The market is weekly, and there are three annual fairs. The corporation consists of two bailiffs, twenty-four principal burgesses, a town-clerk, &c. besides a high steward, under steward, and recorder. One of the bailiffs is chosen from each county. The bailiffs are justices of the peace within the borough, and have power to hold a court of record once in every third week. Tamworth sends two representatives to Parliament, who are returned jointly by the sheriffs of this county, and of Staffordshire.

According to the returns under the population act for 1811, the number of houses and inhabitants, in the Warwickshire division of the town, was then as follows: houses inhabited, 318; houses uninhabited 6; total of persons, 1,664. There is, likewise, a return made of one building and two inhabitants, for the liberty of the castle of Tamworth.

POOLEY HALL *, the seat of the honourable Colonel Finch, is about four miles from Tamworth on the south-east. The lands attached

* In the annexed plate the engraver has inadvertently described Pooley Hall as situate in Lancashire.



POOLEY HALL,
Lancashire.

Engraved by White from a drawing by J.C. Smith



attached to this residence formed part of the possessions of the Marmions of Tamworth Castle; and, after several intermediate transmissions, came to the family of Cokain, in the latter part of the 14th century. It is ascertained that Sir John Cokain resided at Pooley in the reign of Henry IV. and his descendants for many generations made this their principal seat. The present mansion was erected by Sir Thomas Cokain, in the time of Henry VIII. and is a fine but irregular building, varying in character between the embattled style of the previous troubled and suspicious ages, and the open amplitude of construction then first growing into practice.

The extensive parish of POLESWORTH is memorable as the district in which was founded the first religious house in this county. The nunnery here is *said* to have been erected either by King Egbert, or his son Ethelwolf, for the reception of St. Modwena, daughter of the King of Connaught, and her religious sisterhood.* Robert Marmion, to whom it would appear that Polesworth was given by the Conqueror, compelled the nuns to quit this their principal house, and to retire to a cell belonging to them at Oldbury. But within a twelvemonth they were restored; and the same Marmion and his wife became such eminent benefactors to the institution, that Leland does not scruple to account them the founders.

The nuns advanced greatly in celebrity after their restoration. Very extensive property was bestowed on them in different ages; and, to complete the accommodations of their establishment, King Henry III. granted them a charter for a weekly market, and an annual fair to last three days. At the Dissolution, their revenues were stated at 109*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.* The abbess, and each of the nuns, received a pension for life.

Considerable portions of the building yet remain, in a picturesque and most impressive stage of decay. Among these oc-

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cur .

* Antiquities of War. p. 1107. It must be observed, however, that Sir W. Dugdale founds his assertion chiefly on two MSS. of no very high authority.

cur two circular arches, the principal of which is embellished with several divisions of carved moulding, the inner range of stones being shaped into rude resemblances of the human face, interspersed with subjects of a fanciful character.

At Polesworth is a free-school, founded and amply endowed by Sir Francis Nethersole, Kut.

The village of SECKINGTON, near the northern termination of this county, claims notice as the theatre of a sanguinary conflict between Cuthred, King of the West Saxons, and Ethelwald, King of the Mercians, in the year 757. The latter monarch was treacherously slain, during the progress of the battle, by one of his own officers, named Beornred. The traitor was, however, shortly after put to death by King Offa, who succeeded to the dominions of Ethelwald. Near the church are the remains of an extensive castrametation.

The manor of MIDDLETON has been long possessed by the Willoughby family. Sir Thomas Willoughby was created Baron Middleton, of this place, in the year 1711. Henry, the present lord, has here an eligible, though not a very spacious, seat, surrounded by fine and well-wooded grounds.

ATHERSTONE DIVISION

contains the two market towns of AATHERSTONE and NUNEATON, and the following parishes and hamlets: *Ansley*; *Baxterley*; *Bentley* (hamlet); *Caldecote*; *Chilvers-Coton*; *Corley*; *Fil-longley*; *Hartshill* (hamlet); *Lea-Marston*; *Mancester*; *Max-stoke*; *Merevale*; *Oldbury* (hamlet); *Shustoke*, with Blythe; *Weddington*; *Whitacre* over, or superior; *Whitacre* nether, or inferior.

ATHERSTONE.

This town is situate on the Roman Watling Street, and is, in regard to parochial arrangement, a hamlet to Mancester. Ather-

stone was a place of small consideration at the time of the Conquest, and was bestowed, at an early period, on the monks of Bec, in Normandy, by Hugh, Earl of Chester. The monks procured a weekly market and a yearly fair; and to their patronage the town appears indebted for its first steps towards prosperity. The market, when once established, rapidly augmented in traffic; but the monks shared the fate attending most *alien* religious institutions, and surrendered their possessions in the reign of Henry IV.

The town of Atherstone chiefly consists of one street, in which are some commodious and substantial dwellings. An eligible market-house has lately been erected, with a spacious room in the upper division.

This place attains much interest, in an historical view, from its connection with the celebrated battle that ended the war of the rival Roses. Atherstone is not more than nine miles distant from the tract of land usually termed Bosworth Field; and the troops of the Earl of Richmond entered this town on the 20th of August, 1485, and halted here for the night. They were encamped on a meadow to the north of the church, since denominated, from that circumstance, the Royal Meadow. It was during this busy and portentous night that a meeting took place at Atherstone, between Richmond and the two Stanleys,* in which such measures of co-operation were concerted, as occasioned the overthrow of King Richard in the ensuing battle. The battle of Bosworth Field was fought on Monday, the 22d of August, 1485.

A religious house for Friars-Hermits of St. [Augustin, was founded at Atherstone, in the 49th year of Edward III.; but

X 2

these

* Richmond is supposed to have fixed his quarters at the ancient inn, known by the sign of the Three Tuns. The secret conference is said to have taken place in a *little Close*, on the confines of the town; but tradition fails to point out the precise spot. For many curious particulars regarding these events, see Mr. Hutton's Descriptive Account of Bosworth Field.

these mendicant friars met with little encouragement, and their possessions, at the Dissolution, in the time of Henry VIII. were valued only at 30s. 3d. *per ann.* On the site of the friary a residence was constructed by Sir John Repington, Knt. and the property being afterwards purchased by the Bracebridge family, the old buildings were taken down, and a handsome mansion was erected, which is now possessed by Abraham Bracebridge, Esq.

The church belonging to the friary was completed in the reign of Richard II. After the Dissolution, the nave, or western end of this church was granted to the inhabitants of Atherstone, as a chapel of ease to the parish of Mancester. And as such it remains at the present day. But a south aisle has been added, and some other alterations made, which have detracted much from the symmetry and real beauty of the original structure, though they may have added to its convenience.

A free grammar school was founded at Atherstone by Sir William Devereux (then residing at Merevale) and two other benevolent persons, in the year 1573. The *chancel* of the friary church was appropriated to the use of this seminary; and it is still dedicated to the same purpose.

Atherstone has a weekly market, and four annual fairs. The manufacture of hats is cultivated here to some extent; and the town derives considerable advantage from the canal immediately proceeding from Coventry to Fazely, which touches its border on the north-west.

The number of houses and inhabitants is thus stated in the returns under the population act for 1811: houses inhabited, 591; houses uninhabited, 10; total of persons, 2,921.

At Atherstone was born, in 1607, Obadiah Grew, D. D. who was many years minister of St. Michael's, Coventry. During the troubles of the 17th century, Dr. Grew sided with the Presbyterians, and took the covenant; but his amiable deportment, and exemplary discharge of his clerical duties, rendered him respectable

spectable in the view of all parties. On the Restoration, he was ejected from his preferment, as he refused to conform, but remained at Coventry, where he died, in the year 1689. He published two volumes of sermons, delivered at Coventry.

MANCHESTER (usually pronounced, and often written, *Manchester*) is an extensive parish, comprehending the township of Atherstone, and the hamlets of Oldbury and Hartshill. Manchester is a small village, but must be viewed with high interest as occupying a part of the site of the Roman station *Manduesedum*. The Walling Street passes in the close vicinity of the village, on the north-east; and on this road are the remains of a camp, which are divided into nearly equal parts by the transit of the street. The mean length of the whole level surface, or area within the earthworks, is 627 feet; and the mean breadth 438 feet; the total of contents being 6 acres, 1 rood, and 4 perches. Fragments of building, and Roman coins, have been frequently found in the neighbourhood.

At OLDBURY, on an eminence commanding very extensive views, are the remains of a castrametation, which is supposed to have formed the summer camp to the Roman station, *Manduesedum*. Three sides are yet well preserved. The ramparts are about twenty feet broad at the bottom, and about six feet high. On this spot now stands the spacious and elegant modern mansion of H. F. Okeover, Esq. Sir William Dugdale observes * that, "on the north part of the Fort at Oldbury, have been found, by ploughing, divers flint stones, about four inches and a half in length, curiously wrought, by grinding, or by some such process. The one end shaped much like the edge of a pole-axe." There are not any flints naturally produced within a considerable distance of Oldbury; and we may rationally suppose that these had formed part of weapons belonging to the native Britons. One of these relics is now in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

To the south-east of the camp at Oldbury, a large plain is terminated by a smaller camp, which Mr. Bartlett, in his *History and*

* Antiquities of War. p. 1081.

Antiquities of this parish *, supposes "to have been constructed for a guard against any of the foresters attempting to surprize the garrison, when performing exercises."

HARTSHILL, the Campus Martius of the Romans, and included by them in the general name of Manduessedum, occupies a hilly plain, which is of a rocky soil, and of so elevated a character that it is said more than forty churches may be seen from thence, with the unaided eye. We are informed by Mr. Bartlett that, in the year 1773, "a cottager in Hartshill, having enlarged his little croft, enclosed an unnoticed tumulus, about seventy-five feet wide at the bottom; eighteen feet across the top; and about twenty-five feet high. On cutting down the tumulus, he found, at the bottom, a little lower than the level of the surrounding ground, a brick pavement, about six feet square, with a hole at each corner, which he destroyed." † The next year, digging, or ploughing, this ground over again, he found a stone, shaped by art into the resemblance of part of a small battle-axe.

The rural and finely situated hamlet of Hartshill gave birth, in the year 1563, to *Michael Drayton*, a poet highly esteemed at the period in which he wrote, and who has many admirers at the present day. Among his numerous works, *The Polyolbion*; *England's Heroical Epistles*; and the *Nymphidia*, are, perhaps, the most popular. Several of his Sonnets possess considerable beauty. He excelled in pastoral description; and, in this range of poetry, his native *Arden*, and his early Patrons and Friends in Warwickshire, are often favoured with notice. Drayton died in 1631, and was buried in Westminster Abbey.

The manor of ANSLEY passed, by purchase, to the Ludford family, in the year 1613. John Newdigate Ludford, Esq. the present proprietor, is descended in a female line from the original purchaser of the estate, and resides at *Ansley Hall*, an irregular

* This publication contains a great body of curious matter, relating not only to the Manduessedum Romanorum, but to the general History of the Arden of Warwickshire.

† History of Manchester, p. 15.

gular but very respectable family mansion, erected at different periods.

The park attached to this seat is extensive, well stocked with deer, and replete with tasteful embellishments. On an insulated spot in one part of the domain is a Chinese temple, built from a design by Sir W. Chambers; and in a cell beneath is carefully preserved a monument appertaining to the Purefoy family, which was taken down, and thrown into the church-yard, when Caldecote church underwent some repairs about the year 1766.

In a sequestered valley, in another division of the grounds is a hermitage, formed from the stones of an ancient oratory. Ansley Hall was visited, in 1758, by the elegant and truly-poetical Thomas Warton; at which time he wrote, and left in this cell, some beautiful verses, beginning,

Beneath this stoney roof reclin'd,
I sooth to peace my pensive mind.

It may be observed that the verses, as printed in Warton's poetical works, differ much from the simply-pleasing original copy, which is still preserved at Ansley Hall.

The church of Ansley contains some small remains of Saxon, or early Norman, architecture; and has at the west end a square tower of considerable beauty. The whole structure is in an excellent state of repair.

At MEREVALE, near Atherstone, is the handsome residence of Dugdale Stratford Dugdale, Esq. one of the representatives in Parliament for Warwickshire; which gentleman is descended, in a female line, from Sir William Dugdale, the eminent historian of this county. The contiguous grounds are particularly rich in fine and venerable oaks.

A monastery of the Cistercian order was founded at Merevale, by Robert, Earl Ferrers, in the 13th of King Stephen. This monastery was largely endowed by the founder, and was fa-

youred by many benefactions in after periods. At the Dissolution the revenues were stated at 254*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.* *per ann.* The abbot and monks received pensions during life. Considerable fragments of the building yet linger, in a progressive and picturesque state of decay.

The TOWN of NUNEATON appears entirely indebted for its early prosperity to the foundation of a monastery, in the time of King Stephen. This religious house was founded by Robert, Earl of Leicester, and was of the order of Fontevrault, in Poitiers; which order possessed the peculiarity of comprehending both monks and nuns within the pale of one establishment. It is certain that there was, at one period, a *Prior* resident at Nuneaton, but it is not ascertained that he had any monks in his train. The prioress had superior rule in the house.

This monastery was well endowed, and the nuns obtained, in the 10th of Henry III. the grant of a weekly market. In the 23d of the same reign they procured a charter for a yearly fair. On the dissolution of religious houses, in the reign of Henry VIII. the revenues were stated at 290*l.* 15*s.* 0*d.* The prioress and the whole of the nuns were favoured with pensions for life. A portion of the building, comprehending one entire arch and large fragments of walls, yet remains, as a melancholy memorial, at the north-west extremity of the town, in the adjacency of the road leading towards Atherstone.

The church of Nuneaton is a respectable Gothic building, though by no means sufficiently spacious for the accommodation of the inhabitants. Here is a freeschool, founded in the 6th of Edward VI. towards the establishment of which that king gave three closes of ground, lying within the liberties of Coventry, and formerly belonging to the Trinity Gild. This town derives considerable benefit from the weaving of ribbons, and has a weekly market (which is, however, not largely attended) and three annual fairs.

The number of houses and inhabitants is thus stated, in the re-

turns under the Population Act for 1811 :—houses inhabited, 1095; houses uninhabited, six; total of persons, 4,947.

CALDECOTE-HALL is rather more than two miles from Nuneaton, on the north-west. A moiety of the manor of Caldecote was procured by the Purefoy family, in the reign of Edward VI. and by William Purefoy the house was chiefly rebuilt, in the early part of the seventeenth century. The estate was afterwards purchased by Sir Nathan Wright, lord-keeper of the great seal; whose son, William, sold it to Robert Princeps, Esq. and his son conveyed it to Thomas Fisher, Esq.* By the latter gentleman considerable additions and improvements were made; while desirable attention was still paid to the original and venerable features of the edifice.

This mansion is memorable for a most spirited defence made by a Mr. George Abbott, against an assault of the royalists, in the war of the seventeenth century. On the 28th of August, 1642, the manor-house of Caldecote was attacked by the Princes Rupert and Maurice, at the head of eighteen troops of horse. Mr. Abbott, (who had married the daughter of Colonel Purefoy,) assisted only by eight men, *besides his mother and her maids*, defended the building, as it would appear successfully, against the utmost fury of the assailants; and it is not known that any individual of this small garrison was hurt during the conflict.†

The Church is a plain Gothic structure, containing several monuments to the Purefoy family; and, on the south side of the chancel, is a tablet commemorating the virtues and intrepidity of Mr. Abbott. It is there stated that he served his country in two parliaments, and was the author of some religious and political tracts. He died on the 2d of February, 1648.

The

* Gough's Additions to Camden.

† This curious instance of family intrepidity is not noticed by the historians of the civil war. The above particulars are chiefly derived from the inscription on the monument of Mr. Abbott, in Caldecote church. Tradition adds, that the pewter dishes and plates, used in the household, were hastily melted into bullets.

The parish of **SHUSTOKE** will be viewed with interest, as the birth-place of the celebrated antiquary, Sir William Dugdale.

This distinguished writer, to whose historical labours Warwickshire is so much indebted, was born at the rectory-house of Shustoke (a house rebuilt by his father, John Dugdale, Esq. who held a lease of the impropriate rectory,) on the 12th of September, 1605. He received the rudiments of education at the school of Nether-Whitacre, and afterwards removed to the free-school of Coventry, where he remained till nearly the age of fifteen. On leaving school, he was fortunate in finding a father anxious to cultivate in his bosom a love of study; and to the early lessons of his parent, who directed his attention particularly to law and history, we may presume much of the future taste of this eminent antiquary must be ascribed.

Mr. William Dugdale married at the early age of eighteen; and, in 1625, he purchased the manor of Blythe, in the parish of Shustoke, to the mansion on which estate he shortly removed with his family. His literary pursuits were encouraged by several antiquaries who resided in the vicinity; and, at the instance of their advice, and supported by their encouragement, he undertook his elaborate historical work respecting this county. His conspicuous talents soon increased the circle of his friends; and Thomas, Earl of Arundel, then Earl-Marshal of England, created him, in 1638, a pursuivant at arms extraordinary; and, in the following year, he was made rouge-croix-pursuivant in ordinary. In obedience to the duties of this appointment he was present at many important scenes during the civil war. By him the castle of Banbury, the City of Coventry, and the Town of Warwick, were summoned to surrender; and on him, also, devolved the unpleasant office of proclaiming the garrisons of the two latter places traitors to the Crown. He attended the king at the battle of Edge-Hill; and afterwards waited on the court at Oxford. But, wherever he went, and however great the distraction of the times, it is observable that he was constant to the leading pursuit of his life, and was still making collections for one or other of his great
works.

works. In 1644 he was created Chester-Herald; and, on the Restoration, was advanced to the office of Norroy, King of Arms. In 1677, he was appointed Garter, principal King of Arms, and was honoured with knighthood. The fortune of Sir William Dugdale was not large; and he appears to have received this latter mark of distinction with much reluctance. The remainder of his life was chiefly divided between London and Blythe-Hall. He died, in his chair, at Blythe-Hall, about one o'clock in the afternoon of Feb. 10, 1685-6, in consequence of an illness arising from a severe cold. Sir William had several children, but only one son attained maturity: this was John, afterwards Norroy King of Arms, and knighted by James II. One daughter was married to the celebrated Elias Ashmole. The works of Sir William Dugdale are numerous, and extremely valuable. The most important are—The Antiquities of Warwickshire; The Monasticon Anglicanum; The Baronage of England; The History of Embanking and Draining; and the History of St. Paul's Cathedral. There are many MSS. by Sir William Dugdale, chiefly on historical subjects, in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

The Church of Shustoke is a handsome structure, erected in the time of Edward II. The remains of Sir William Dugdale and his Lady,* lie in a vault on the north side of the chancel. Over the tomb is a mural tablet, bearing a Latin inscription to the memory of the deceased, and embellished with the family arms. There are also other monuments to the Dugdale family; among which is that of Sir John, the son of the antiquary.

BLYTHE-HALL, the former residence of Sir William Dugdale, was purchased by that eminent writer of Sir Walter Aston, in 1625. This is a spacious and respectable seat, but placed in a low situation, on the border of the river Blythe, at the distance of one mile from the town of Coleshill. Some interesting portraits descended with this house to the present representative of the

* Margery, second daughter of John Huntbach, of Sewal, in the parish of Bishbury, Staffordshire, Gent. She died on the 18th of December, 1681, aged 75.

the family; among which are good half-lengths of Sir William Dugdale, and his son-in-law, Elias Ashmole. Blythe-Hall is now the residence of Mrs. Dugdale, mother of D. S. Dugdale, Esq. one of the members for the county of Warwick.

MAXSTOKE-CASTLE is about one mile from Blythe-Hall, on the south-east. This fine structure was chiefly erected by William de Clinton, Earl of Huntingdon, in the reign of Edward III. and continued to be the chief seat of the ancient family of Clinton until the reign of Henry IV. when it was passed, in exchange for certain manors in Northamptonshire, to Humphrey, Earl of Stafford, afterwards Duke of Buckingham. On the attainder of Henry, the grandson of this duke, the castle was committed to the care of an officer appointed by the Crown; and it may be observed that King Richard III. visited this strong hold, when on his march towards Nottingham, preparatory to the fatal battle of Bosworth. From the Staffords the estate, after remaining for some time with the Crown, passed to the Comptons; and of them it was purchased, in the reign of Elizabeth, by the Lord-Keeper Egerton; by whom it was again sold to Thomas Dilke, Esq. In this family it remains at the present day, and is now the residence of Mrs. Dilke.

The castle is built in the form of a parallelogram, and is encompassed by a moat. At each corner is an hexagonal tower, with embattled parapets. The entrance is by an angust and machiolated gateway, strengthened on each side by a tower of hexagonal form.* The gates are covered with plates of iron; and the marks of the discarded porteullis are yet visible. These gates were erected by Humphrey, Duke of Buckingham; and they are adorned with his arms, his own coat being impaled with the bearings of his wife, a daughter of the house of Nevil, and supported by two antelopes, assumed in right of his mother, who was one of the coheirs of Thomas of Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester. To these are added the burning *nave*, and the *knot*, the badges of his own ancestry.

A por-

* Represented in the annexed plate.



See the Beauties of England & Wales.

WARWICK CASTLE,
Warwickshire.

Engraved by J. Johnson from a Drawing by J. B. B. after a Sketch by J. Johnson.



A portion of the interior of this edifice was accidentally destroyed by fire, but the greater part of the ancient building still remains, and is an interesting specimen of the architectural arrangement of the 14th and 15th centuries. Among these apartments are the spacious hall: a large dining room, with a door and chimney ornamented with curious carving; and the venerable chapel. In the walls of the great court are yet remaining the *caserns*, or lodgments for soldiery.

By William de Clinton, Earl of Huntingdon, was founded at Maxstoke a priory for canons regular of the order of St. Augustin. The endowment was ample, and the revenues were valued, at the dissolution, at 130*l.* 11*s.* 8½*d.* *per ann.* There are large remains of this building; and the ruins are rendered mournfully picturesque by the varieties of evergreen foliage which enwrap them in nearly every direction.

SOLIHULL DIVISION

comprises the following parishes and hamlets: *Baddesley-Clinton*; *Balsall*; (hamlet;) *Burston*; *Berkeswell*; *Bickenhill*; *Elmdon*; *Hampton in Arden*; *Kimwulsey* (hamlet;) *Knowle* (hamlet;) *Meriden*; *Nuthurst* (hamlet;) *Packington*, great; *Packington*, little; *Solihull*.

SOLIHULL (ordinarily pronounced *Silhill*) ranks as one of the market towns of this county, but the market is now in a state of absolute disuse. This place wears the tranquil appearance of a large village, and contains little to attract the notice of the examiner, except the church, which is a spacious and handsome building of the cruciform description.

Sir William Dugdale conjectures that the chief parts of the district now comprehended in the parish of Solihull, were known by the name of *Ulverlei* at the time of the Norman Survey. Here was formerly the chief seat of the barony of Limesie; and the residence of the barons, Dugdale supposes to have occupied a spot at present known by the name of *Olton*, a small village about two miles from Solihull on the north-west.

From

From the ruins of this baronial residence and its dependent habitations sprung, in the reign of Henry III. the town of Solihull. Grants for a weekly market and a yearly fair were speedily procured; but the town does not appear to have obtained much commercial distinction at any period. The number of houses and inhabitants is thus stated in the returns under the Population Act for 1811: houses inhabited, 518; houses uninhabited, 6; houses then building, 4; total of persons, 2,581.

In the close vicinity of Solihull is MALVERN HALL, the seat of Henry Greswold Lewis, Esq. This desirable mansion is placed on an elevated site, and is surrounded by spacious grounds.

The extensive parish of HAMPTON in ARDEN involves two hamlets peculiarly deserving of notice.

KNOWLE, or KNOLL, the nearest of these to the mother church, is a pleasing village, situate, as the name implies, on elevated ground. This lordship was possessed by Eleanor, the consort of Edward I. and, on the death of that queen, it was given, with many others, to the monks of Westminster, on condition of their performing certain pious ceremonies on the Eve of St. Andrew, the day on which the amiable Queen Eleanor's anniversary had usually been kept. About the latter end of the reign of Richard II. Walter Cooke, a churchman of high preferment and repute, erected at his own expense a chapel in the village of Knowle; and in the fourth year of Henry IV. he founded here a chantry of either one or two priests. Retaining his friendly inclinations towards this spot, he procured, in the 14th of the same king, a licence to institute, in conjunction with some other persons, a gild within the chapel; of which fraternity many noble and celebrated men became members.—With the concurrence of Elizabeth, the widow of Lord Clinton, he afterwards obtained permission for himself and that lady to found here a college of ten chantry priests. But, at the dissolution of such institutions in the reign of Henry VIII. there were only two chantry priests on this foundation, and the re-
venues

venues were stated at no more than 22*l.* 3*s.* 3*d.* The income of the gild, supporting three chantry priests, was returned at 29*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.*

The chapel is a building of much beauty, consisting of a nave, two aisles, and a chancel. In the south wall are four stone seats, or recesses, beneath embellished arches; and further towards the east, is a handsome piscina. On the north side are seven stalls, and on the south side six. These are *ornamented* with various satirical allusions, among which may be noticed an ape holding a bag, and a bear looking at it; a fox sitting, holding an open book. &c.

In the south wall of the south aisle occur a piscina and a locker. Over the rood-loft are some remains of paintings, comprising whole lengths of the Virgin Mary, another saint, and an angel. Several of the pews are embellished with carvings, and in the windows are still preserved some fragments of ancient painted glass*.

In ploughing a field near Knowle, an urn of a dark brown colour was discovered, containing coins of the lower Empire, to the weight of fifteen pounds.†

The hamlet of BALSALL, (often termed TEMPLE BALSALL) was given to the knights templars by Roger de Mowbray; which religious knights erected a church in this place, and constructed here a house as a preceptory, or cell, to their principal mansion, the Temple in London. Besides the manor of Balsall, the knights templars had various other landed possessions in Warwickshire; and their preceptory at Balsall was supported with much splendour until the termination of the order of templars in England, in the reign of Edward II. The knights hospitallers briefly succeeded to the possessions of the templars at Balsall; but it does not appear that they had any preceptory, or residence, at this place. On the dissolution of monasteries, this manor came,

* An intelligent communication respecting this chapel is inserted in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, Vol. LXIII. p. 419.

† *Archæol.* VII. p. 413.

came, after various transmissions, to Lady Katharine Teverton, the daughter of Sir Robert Dudley, who has been mentioned in several previous pages; and this lady bequeathed the whole lordship, for the founding of an hospital for the reception and maintenance of indigent females, either widows, or unmarried women of fair character, to be chosen from the inhabitants of certain specified parishes, that of Balsall having the preference. A Master was appointed to "instruct the pensioners for the good of their souls;" and it was directed that he should, likewise, "teach and instruct twenty of the poorest boys of Balsall and parish, until fit to be apprentices."

The Church of Balsall will be viewed with considerable interest, as it has experienced scarcely any alterations since its erection by the knights templars. This building is, in form, an oblong square; and is, according to an admeasurement stated by Dr. Thomas, 104 feet in length; 39 feet in breadth; and 37 feet in height. The interior is not subject to any division. The walls are three feet in thickness, and the roofing is composed of timber, formerly parted into squares, at the angles of which were shields of arms, now removed into the great hall. At the east end is a lofty pointed window of five lights; and on each side are three windows, consisting alternately of three and four lights, the heads beautifully ramified, and all dissimilar. At the west end is, likewise, a window of five lights; and, over it, a circular window of twelve compartments. The doors are four in number, and very small. Over that, at the south-west corner, is a turret, rising no higher than the centre of the roof. The buttresses are light, and not graduated. The ornamental sculpture, consisting of imposts to the arches, and a row of ten heads on a cornice, or moulding, at the west end, is of excellent workmanship. It may be observed that the chancel is not distinguished from the nave by any other circumstance than the floor in that part rising one step. In the south wall, at the east end of the church, are three stone stalls, or recesses.

The ancient hall of the templars is still existing, though now
sur-

surrounded with brick work, and disfigured by square-headed windows. This spacious apartment appears to have been wholly framed of timber, and divided into three aisles by massive wooden pillars.

The bequest of Lady Leevson has proved of the most propitious character, and the number of alms people has been augmented at several periods, in consequence of the affluent state of the finances. The various buildings connected with this charity are substantial and extensive, and the whole institution ranks among the most advantageous and pleasing possessions of the county.

The parish of MERIDEN is ornamented by the respectable family mansion of Wriothsley Digby, Esq.

At GREAT PACKINGTON is the seat of the Earl of Aylesford. The manor of Packington came to the ancestor of the present noble proprietor, in the early part of the 18th century, in consequence of a marriage with the daughter of Sir Clement Fisher.

The neighbourhood of Packington is said to contain the highest ground in England, and many points command prospects as beautiful and various as they are extensive. The spacious mansion was much improved by the late Earl and his father, and is now a commodious residence of the first class, though not of an ornamented character. The grounds possess a natural inequality, favourable to picturesque effect; and are well-wooded and finely adorned with water. The late Earl of Aylesford, who had much activity of taste, in conjunction with merits still more estimable, studiously imparted to these grounds an air of wildness, likely to convey general pleasure, because its graces are dependant on no caprice of fashion, and vary with the beautiful vicissitudes of nature. His lordship's talents were not confined to the arrangement of landscape scenery; and many drawings and etchings preserved in the family mansion evince his familiarity with the pencil and burin. This accomplished nobleman died in the year 1812.

The parish church of Packington, situate within the limits of
VOL. XV. Y Lord

Lord Aylesford's Park, was rebuilt, in the latter part of the 18th century, from a design of Bonomi. This structure is not on an extensive scale, and possesses little beauty of outward feature. The interior is elegant, though weighty.

At a short distance from Packington is the Rosset Hall, a small but pleasing building, erected for the accommodation of a society of archers, termed the woodmen of Arden, who hold periodical meetings, and exercise the bow for honorary prizes.

END OF WARWICKSHIRE.



WORCESTERSHIRE.

THIS County has been so methodically delineated by the late *Dr. Nash*, on a general plan, and some of its most interesting outlines so well described in detail by *Green*, in his Survey of the city of **WORCESTER**, *Tindal* in his **EVESHAM**, and many of our modern Tourists, that it may well be asked, "What is left for their successors, but to tread in their footsteps?" It must be recollected, however, that some years have intervened since the latest of these publications made its appearance; that many alterations and some improvements have since that taken place; and also, that of what has already been written, though the greatest part of it may be useful to local residents, and to those requiring reference, still much must be of a nature unsought for by general readers, and, in fact, totally unconnected with the beauties of the county.

Impressed with these ideas, the principal objects of the editor of this part of the work, both in his personal survey of the county itself, and in a long course of research through all the various public and private libraries of the metropolis, have been to examine every thing, as far as possible, himself; to compare things as they now are, with their descriptions; to detect error where it may have taken place; to ascertain what has been described, and is no longer in existence; and by adding events and descriptions of a later date, to give as much novelty to the subject as it is susceptible of, and is compatible with accuracy. How far he may have succeeded in these objects, he must leave to the candour of his readers.

GEOGRAPHICAL EXTENT AND DIVISIONS.

It is rather surprising in the present improved state of mathematical knowledge, that the precise superficial admeasurement of any of our counties should be involved in doubt, and that the wide difference between the various accounts should oblige us to suspect them all of inaccuracy. Such, however, is the case with respect to *Worcestershire*, and we must therefore be content with stating the various opinions, for such they seem to be, and nothing more; with the exception, perhaps, of an estimate delivered in to parliament in 1805.

The situation of the county is completely inland, and very near to the centre of the kingdom, with Herefordshire separating it from Wales on the south-west; Shropshire laying to the north-west; Staffordshire bounding it on the north; Warwickshire stretching to the east; and Gloucestershire on the south. In latitude, it extends from 52° to $52^{\circ} 30'$ north; and its longitude is from $1^{\circ} 30'$ to $2^{\circ} 30'$ west. It is altogether of a very irregular shape, having on every side* detached parts surrounded by other counties; and in some instances, parts of other counties completely insulated within it: and though its circumference, not allowing for irregularities, cannot be estimated at more than 124 miles, yet, if the boundary line was to be precisely measured, it would be nearly twice that computation. The measurement which Dr. Nash has given in his Survey, and which the continuator of Camden has followed, states its extreme length from *Chasely* in the south-west, to *Yardley* in the north-east, to be about forty-three miles, whilst the shortest line along the Severn is not more than thirty miles, giving a medium of about thirty-six miles in length; and the extreme breadth from *Oldberrow* in the east, to *Berrington* near Tenbury in the west, is estimated at thirty-four miles; the shortest line from *Atch Lench* to *Malvern* may be about eighteen; and the mean is taken at twenty-six miles.

From

* Gough's additions to Camden.

From this it is computed that the body of the county contains 936 square miles, equal to 599,040 acres; whilst the detached parts being estimated at 19,200, the whole is stated to amount to 618,240 acres. If the measurement from Cary's map be taken as a standard, the mean length would be no more than thirty, and the breadth twenty-five miles,* giving a superficies of 480,000 acres: but the official estimate laid before Parliament reduces its contents to 431,360 acres. Without presuming to decide between accounts so very contradictory, we shall merely state that two-thirds of its superficies lie on the eastern side, and one-third on the western side of the Severn: and that at the present day it contains one city, eleven market-towns, perhaps 300 villages and hamlets, (some accounts say 500,) and 152 parishes, including one bishopric and three boroughs: the whole being divided into the five hundreds of OSWALDESLOWE, which occupies the centre and different detached parts; HALFSHIRE on the north-east; BLAKENHURST on the south-east; PERSHORE on the south and south-west; and DODDINGTREE on the western side of the county. Its towns, besides the city of *Worcester*, are, *Evesham*, *Droitwich*, and *Bewdley*, which return members to parliament; and the market-towns of *Upton*, *Tenbury*, *Kidderminster*, *Dudley*, *Stourbridge*, *Bromsgrove*, *Pershore*, and *Shipston-upon-Stour*. The particulars of which divisions will be detailed more at length in the progress of the Survey.

HISTORY, BRITISH, ROMAN, AND SAXON, &c.

The *etymology* of the name of Worcestershire has been a subject of considerable dispute; and indeed it must be confessed, from the irregular orthography of the early writers, and from the various names bestowed upon it by its different possessors, that the grounds for conjecture upon this subject are but indefinite. Camden tells us, that the second part of the country of the *Cor-narii* has now changed its name to *Worcestershire*, whose inha-

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bitants,

* Pitt's Agricultural Survey.

bitants, with others round about, were called in Bede's time, before England was divided, *Wicci*; and he adds, that if this name does not come from the winding river, whose banks they inhabit, (the creeks of a river being called by the Saxons *wic*,) it seems derived from the saltpits, which in the old English language are called *Wiches*. But other etymologies have been adduced from the name of its city; for we are told that the Welch gave it the name of "Caerwrangon," or the fortified city; and that the Saxons wrote it "Wiga-erne", or the Warrior's Lodge. Some have supposed it to have been the *Branogenium* of the Romans, which *Horsley** however asserts to have been Ludlow; but he acknowledges that *Ravennas* applies that name to Worcester, at the same time that he uses "Sarva" for *Sabrina*. The name of "Caer Guarangon," is to be found in an old British writer;† and some of those who wrote soon after him, particularly Alfred of Beverley, and Henry of Huntingdon, are of opinion that the name applies to Worcester; whilst in Domesday-book it appears to have had the appellation of "Wirecestre;" and its present Latin name is "Wigornia." It is therefore now generally adopted as an opinion, that the present name is a corruption from that in Domesday-book, which again is derived from the Saxon; but it is rather curious, in this search after etymologies, that nobody has ever supposed it possible that the forest of *Wyre* may have extended to the southward on Severn's banks; and that "Wire-Cestre" may have signified the *Camp, or Castle of the Wyre*.

The *early history* is as obscure as the origin of the name; but we may conclude that this county was not unknown to the *Phœnicians* in their visits to Britain, a supposition naturally arising from a fact stated by Dr. Nash, that in the year 1752, a very singular and rare piece of antiquity was discovered at Hagley in the northern part of the county, at a considerable depth in a rag-stone quarry within the park, consisting of a small image of stone, about two inches in length, being a very rude figure of a man,
but

* Horsley's *Britannia Romana*.

† Nennius.

but ending in a *term*. This was submitted to the inspection of the ablest antiquaries of the time, who were of opinion, from its being too rude for a Roman artist, that it must have been Phœnician; for *British* it could not be, as the ancient British religion admitted of no idolatry; and it is further deserving of remark, that this image agreed in all respects with the *Teraphim* mentioned in Scripture.

Of the *Roman* history of this county we know but little. Dr. Nash merely says, that among the Romans, what is now called Worcestershire, was probably in the district belonging to the *Cornavii*, or perhaps the *Dobuni*;* he adds, that from its being a low woody country, it was very little known to that cautious and warlike people. Horsey† observes, that *Ptolemy* takes no notice of any part of this county; and he adds, that it is not traced or crossed in *Antoninus's* Itinerary, the nearest part being in the 13th *Iter* from *Glevum*, or Gloucester, to *Ariconium* near to the present Ross. Yet Horsey acknowledges afterwards, on the authority of *Dion* and *Suetonius*, that "Ostorius being made Proprætor of Britain, found affairs there much in confusion, the enemies having made inroads into the territories of the Roman allies. Ostorius takes at once the readiest Cohorts; kills those who resist; and pursues those who were dispersed, to prevent their gathering to a body again. He disarms the suspected, builds forts, and posts his forces upon the rivers *Antona*, (Avon) and *Sabrina*, to keep in the enemy." On a geographical view of these two rivers, it is evident that the Roman army must have been in Worcestershire; and this is further confirmed by *Gale*, in

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his

* Respecting the *Dobuni*, we find some notices in Bertram's edition, p. 24, of a work "De Situ Britannia," written by *Ricardus Corinensis*, a monk of Cirencester. He says, "Urbes Dobunorum erant *Salinæ*, *Branogena* ad sinistram *Sabrinæ* ripam, *Alauna* et cui reliquæ nomen laudemque debent, *Corinæ*, urbs perspicabilis, opus, ut tradunt, *Vespasiani Ducis*." From the first two of these towns being described as on the left bank of the Severn, it has been conjectured, with some appearance of reason, that they were *Droitwich* and *Worcester*.

† Horsey's *Britannia Romana*.

his work on the Itinerary of Antoninus, page 150, where he asserts, that *Sabrina* is the Severn, which is clear, both from the legendary story, noticed by Milton, in his *Comus*, and the affinity of names, as well as from the authority of Ptolemy *. He is also of opinion, that *Antona* must be *Avon*, though some have written the ancient name *Aufona*, which is changed into *Abona*, by the anonymous writer of *Ravennas*.

The *Roman roads*, whose vestiges are also to be discovered in the county, are a convincing proof that Worcestershire partook, in common with other parts of the kingdom, of that civilization, which always then accompanied the sword of conquest. According to the observation of several antiquarians, we must give a Roman origin to a raised way on the edge of the county between Worcester and Alcester, in Warwickshire, called the "Ridge-way;" and also to a paved way from Kenchester, leading to a passage over the river Lug, and thence towards Ledbury, *pointing to Worcester*. Salmon also asserts, that there is a Roman way from Worcester, crossing Shropshire, and a road, or fosse, running through Blockley parish. That the Romans must have been in Worcestershire, is also proved from other traces of their roads. The Consular way, or *Ikening Street*, passes from Alcester, through Alyechurch parish, into Staffordshire, and again appears at Shipley, in Bromsgrove; and another passes through Hagley Common, which now bears the name of the King's Head Land, but is supposed by Nash to have been more probably anciently called the Portway, "as in a court roll of the Manor of Clent, temp. Eliz. mention is made of a road, styled the Portway, in the Lord's Waste."

It is also recorded in Nash, that at Hagley, several coins of the lower empire have been found, particularly in the fields adjoining to the large camp, on Witchbury Hill, where about forty years ago, an earthen pot filled with them, was taken out of a pool on the side of the hill. "In 1736, a farmer, stubbing up an old tree, which grew on the hill, very near Witchbury Camp, discovered

* See also Horseley, p. 36.

covered an iron chain, almost rotten with age and rust, in which hung, as in a sling, a round stone, about the size of a man's head, a groove being cut quite round the stone, the more commodiously to receive the chain. On Clent Heath, about a mile and a half below Witchbury, are five barrows, which were perhaps thrown up by the Romans, the constant tradition of the inhabitants assigning them to that people. One of these was opened some years ago, and contained a considerable quantity of burnt wood and ashes, at the depth of fourteen feet. Two others have been since opened, in one of which, at about the depth of two feet, exactly in the centre, was discovered an urn, filled with small human bones, very white, to the quantity of two quarts. The urn was broke all to pieces by the workman's spade, and appeared to be of very coarse ill burnt clay. At about the depth of two feet lower, on the west side of this tumulus, was a large quantity of burnt wood, bones, ashes, &c. The inhabitants of Clent and Hagley talk of an engagement which happened on the spot, between the Romans and Britons; these may have been the places of sepulture of those who fell."

Stukely also tells us *, that a Roman road goes from Worcester, along the river to Upton, where antiquities have been discovered, and which town he supposes to have been the "Ypocessa" of the Romans; from thence it goes to Tewkesbury, where it meets with the "Ricning" street way. If to all this we add, that other ancient writers have asserted, that Worcester was founded by *Constantius Chlorus*, to prevent the incursions of the Britons, we cannot refuse our assent to the belief, that Worcestershire was well known to, though perhaps not totally occupied by, that enterprising people. We come now to a period of rather more certainty, for after the departure of the Romans from this island, the dispirited inhabitants, in order to save themselves from the oppressions of the Scots and Picts, invited the Saxons to their assistance, who began to settle here about the year 450, but did not get possession of the interior of the island for some

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years

* Stukeley's Itinerary, Vol. I. p. 65.

years after, when they established the Kingdom of *MERCIA*, in which Worcestershire was included. At this time indeed, this country must have suffered much, from the contests between the expatriated Britons and the invaders; for the former on being expelled from the low and fertile lands, retired across the Severn into Wales, whose almost inaccessible mountains and passes, they not only guarded against Saxon encroachment, but they also endeavoured at different times to regain the seats of their ancestors, and thus made the frontier counties the seat of war and devastation. It is unnecessary to recount from the History of England, the well-known facts, that in the ninth and tenth centuries the greatest part of this island suffered much from the predatory assaults of the Danes; nor is it necessary to record, that Worcestershire was often the scene of deadly contests. If any thing was wanting to confirm the facts related by our various historians, a proof would be found in Nash's Survey, where it is mentioned, that about two centuries past, in a field in the parish of Crowle, adjoining to Hodington, there was discovered a stone coffin, lined with lead, containing the mouldering bones of a man, together with an earthen pitcher, or urn, at the head of it. These were supposed, at the time, to have been the relics of some Danish warrior, who had fallen in battle; an opinion which seems to * be confirmed by the quantities of bones frequently ploughed up around this place, and by the traces of fortifications which, though now overgrown with wood, were very distinguishable not many years ago. Dr. Thomas, who has distinguished himself by his topographical observations on this county, was of opinion, that these were the remains of *Sigmund*, the Dane; and it is not unworthy of notice, that the stone of which the coffin was made, so nearly resembled the produce of Burford quarry, in Oxfordshire, that an antiquarian friend of *Habington*, as is mentioned in his MSS. affirmed, it must have been brought from thence

* See Nash. Article *Crowle*. In this, as in many other passages, we shall give the references without the marks of quotation; as these marks produce too formal an effect, and are too great a check on the ease of a narrative.

thence. Amongst other Danish remains in this county, we must not omit a small oval camp, on Conderton Hill, in Overbury parish. This camp, which is near Bredon Hill, is 165 yards long, and 74 wide; and tradition, which Dr. Nash very justly observes, is preferable to conjecture, gives it to this people. Round it also have some Roman coins been found.

During the Saxon Heptarchy, the inhabitants of the district extending over all Worcestershire, except the north-west angle, over all that part of Gloucestershire, which is to the east of the Severn, together with the city of Warwick, and great part of its county, were called by the general name of *Wiccii*, and were under the episcopal jurisdiction of Worcester, which was the principal Mercian See. On the accession of William the Conqueror, this episcopal government was superseded, and the civil power entrusted to the

EARLS OF WORCESTER*. *Urso d' Abbot* was the first of those; he was son to *Almeric d' Abbot*, lord of the territory of that name, in Normandy, and brother to Robert le Despencer, ancestor of the present noble families of that name. He has also been called *Vice Comes*, having had the hereditary shrievalty granted to him, which occasioned him sometimes to be called "*Urso de Wirecestre*," and with this he held the constableness of the castle. That he was a Lord of Parliament, is evident from his

* We must not omit, that some authors assign *Dukes* to this district before the Conquest; stating that those who were entrusted with the government of various districts in the Saxon times, by the different princes, were called *Comites* and *Duces*; whilst others assert that the Wiccian governors were distinguished by the name of "*subreguli*," analogous to vice roy. *Florence* calls *Oshere* Bishop of this district; but other writers speak of him by the name of *Osrick*; and they all agree in the fact, that in 681, King *Ethelred* gave him 300 tenements, with land appertaining to them, and to *Oswald*, his brother, as much more, all in this shire. He is said to have been succeeded by *Huctred*, who is called "*Dux Wicciorum*," in the time of *Offa*. *Eanbert* his brother succeeded, and dying, left the rank and power to his brother *Alfred*, who, like his predecessor, was a great benefactor to the monks of Worcester.

his having sat in the Great Council, held in London, in the 15th of the Conqueror, and in another at Westminster, in the 18th year. His loyalty to his sovereign was conspicuously displayed in the early part of that reign, when Roger, Earl of Hereford, and Ralph, Earl of Norfolk, conspired against him; * for joining his forces with those of Bishop Wolstan, he prevented the Earl of Hereford from passing the Severn, and thus the junction of the rebel forces did not take place. Like all the barons of that time, he founded a hermitage at Little Malvern, and died soon after, leaving a daughter and heiress, Emmeline, who married Walter, the progenitor of the noble family of Beauchamp, afterwards Earls of Warwick.

Walleran de Bellomont was the second Earl of Worcester, and his elevation to this dignity seems to have proceeded from his propinquity to the royal family, being twin brother to Robert, Earl of Leicester, and son of Robert, Earl of Mellent, (related in the female line to the Norman dynasty) by his wife Isabel, daughter of Hugh, Earl of Vermandois, and son of the King of France. This Earl also held the paternal honours in Normandy, but in the reign of Henry I. having deserted the royal cause, and manned his castles against his sovereign, in the then baronial wars, the king's party wasted his estates with fire and sword, and having taken him prisoner, he was held in confinement for five years; and even when permitted to be at large, was not entrusted with the keeping of any of his castles. In the contests between the Empress Maud and Stephen, he seems to have adhered to the latter, and to have acted a conspicuous part at the battle of Lincoln; and afterwards went to Jerusalem; but on his return having again incurred his sovereign's displeasure, the city of Worcester was taken by assault, and unfortunately reduced to ashes. Two years afterwards, he was taken prisoner, and confined in the castle of Orbec, in Normandy, from whence his own partisans endeavoured to release him, by commencing a siege; but they were unsuccessful, and he died soon after; leaving by his wife Elizabeth

* Heylin's Help to English History. Dugdale's Baronage, &c.

Beth Montfort, only one son, who inherited the Norman, but not the English honours. This was in the twelfth century, and the title seems to have lain dormant, until 1397, when it was conferred on

Thomas Percy, the third earl, second son of Henry Lord Percy, by his first wife, Mary, daughter of Henry Plantagenet, Earl of Lancaster; and brother of Henry, the first Earl of Northumberland. This gallant Earl of Worcester seems to have acquired the honour more from his great services, than from his near relationship to the Royal Family; for in the 44th of Edward III. he accompanied the Black Prince to Bergerac, to defend the frontiers of the English provinces against the French, and shortly afterwards distinguished himself at the siege of Montpaon, which surrendered to the army under the Duke of Lancaster, the famous John of Gaunt *. In the early part of the reign of the unhappy Richard II. he was appointed Admiral of the Northern Seas, and was sent with considerable forces into France, to assist the Duke of Brittany; but in this expedition he was so far unfortunate as to have the greatest part of his fleet dispersed, and shipwrecked, and he himself quite in a disabled state, attacked in his single ship by a Spanish vessel of superior force; but in this affair he acquitted himself so gallantly, as to board and capture his assailant, after a very smart action. Together, with Sir Hugh Calverley, he was now appointed a Governor of Brest; and about the same time, was one of the commissioners to treat of a peace between Edward III. and David Bruce, King of Scotland. In the succeeding reign he held the office of general, under Thomas of Woodstock, uncle to the king, and marched through France, from Calais to Brittany; and having returned home, was in the next year employed to suppress the *Commons* in Essex, as they were called, being the remains of the rebels under *Jack Straw*. To his military duties he seems also to have added legal ones, being sent soon after on commission with the

Earl

* Vide Holinshed and other Chronicles: also Dugdale.

Earl of Warwick, to execute justice upon the rebels at St. Albans. On his return to France, he was at the siege of Nantes, and appointed sole captain of the Tower and castle of Brest; he then accompanied the Duke of Lancaster, as a commissioner to settle some matters with the Flemings, and also in a treaty between England and France. After this we find him appointed Lord of the East Marches towards Scotland, and in the 10th of Richard II. Admiral of the fleet, which carried that great army under John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, sent to recover Castile and Leon, which were his wife's inheritance. After this, he was Justice of South Wales, and Vice-chamberlain to the king; a commissioner to Amiens, to conclude a new treaty between England and France; and also steward of the royal household. That such numerous services should now be honoured with the Earldom of Worcester, is not surprising; but to this was also added the high post of Captain of the Town and Castle of Calais, with the Wardenship of the Marches. Notwithstanding the high favour in which he was with Richard, we find him still standing fair, on that monarch's deposal, with his successor; and he and the Bishop of Durham were sent by Henry IV. into France, to represent on what right and title he had taken the steps which led him to the throne. He seems, however, not to have approved of Henry's politics; for although he was appointed lieutenant through both North and South Wales, yet on the commencement of the Percy rebellion, he fled to his brother, the Earl of Northumberland, and combining with him, joined with his nephew, the gallant *Hotspur*, then in arms. In this unfortunate affair, he seems to have committed the only act which reflects upon his memory; for being, as it is said, made the medium of offers of pardon to the insurgents, in case they would submit, he misrepresented what the king had said, and exasperating the chiefs to hazard a battle, it concluded, as is well known, in a dreadful slaughter and total defeat of the rebel army, during which Harry Percy was slain, and this earl being taken prisoner, was
after-

afterwards beheaded at Shrewsbury, without issue. The title was next bestowed, in 1420, on a descendant in the female line of the first Norman earl, or sheriff; this was

Richard Beauchamp, fourth Earl of Worcester, and son and heir to William Beauchamp, Baron of Abergavenny of the Warwick family, by Joan his wife, sister and co-heir to Fitz-Alan, Earl of Arundel. This earl, like all his predecessors, acquired his rank by his military talents; for it appears, that in the reign of Henry V. he was retained to serve that monarch in his French wars; and having continued some years there, behaving with the most conspicuous gallantry and fidelity, he was elected Knight of the Garter; and in 1429, created Earl of this county. The war still continuing, he remained in France, and shortly after was killed at the siege of Mewsenburg. He had married a relative of the royal family, Isabel, daughter of Thomas le Despencer, by Constance, daughter of Edmund, Duke of York; but leaving only an heiress, Elizabeth, the title became extinct, and in 1449, was conferred on

John Tibetot, or *Tiptoft*, the fifth earl, who before this was Baron Tiptoft and Powis, and Knight of the Garter. It appears, that hitherto this earldom had never been conferred but for distinguished services, a rule equally adhered to in this creation; for this nobleman, in the reign of Henry VI. was one of those who undertook to guard the narrow seas, on condition of having an allowance of tonnage and poundage for that service. Shortly after this, he became Lord Deputy of Ireland; then in the reign of Edward IV. justice of North Wales, constable of the Tower of London, and treasurer of the King's Exchequer. The Duke of Somerset, an adherent of the Lancastrian party, having got possession of Bamborough Castle, in the north, which he held out for the claimant of that family, the Earl of Worcester accompanied Edward to the siege; after which he was made Chancellor of England, and was retained to serve the king at sea; two services which, at the present day, would be considered as rather incompatible. In the following year, 1468, he became steward of the

the household, and was joined in commission with Lord Audley, and other nobles, to treat of a truce with the Duke of Brittany. But it was not in military, or in state affairs alone, that this earl distinguished himself; for being educated at Baliol College, Oxford, he there acquired all the learning of his day; and such was his thirst after knowledge, that in early life he had travelled to Jerusalem, and afterwards returning through Italy, he not only visited the learned societies in Venice and Padua, but went also to Rome to see the Vatican library, where he is said to have made such an elegant oration to Pope Pius II. as to have drawn tears from his eyes. He was also the author of several learned works; and in honour of the Christian religion founded a fraternity of monks at Alhallows Barking, near London; but notwithstanding his public and private virtues, his end was calamitous; for being a firm adherent of the house of York, he exerted himself with such vigour in that cause, that on the temporary restoration of Henry VI. by the power and abilities of the great Neville, Earl of Warwick, he was forced to conceal himself from the victorious party; but being at length discovered on the top of an high tree in Waybridge forest, Huntingdonshire, he was brought to London, and beheaded on Tower-hill in 1471, on charges of cruelty in his administration in Ireland, and of ordering the execution of some of the opposite party at Southampton. Thus says Fuller, "the axe did at one blow cut off more learning than was left in the heads of all the surviving nobility:"* and of the particulars of his unhappy fate, Leland relates,† that as soon as he was condemned at Westminster, he was conveyed on foot, having first put off his shoes in reference to his death, to Ludgate prison, where he lay one night, and next day was carried to execution on Tower-hill. He married to his second wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Hopton, Esq. widow of Sir Roger Corbet, Knt. and had by her

Edward Tiptoft, his successor, and sixth earl, who was little more than two years old at his father's death; but on the recovery

* Fuller's Worthies.

† Leland De Scriptoribus; also Tanner.

very of the crown by Edward IV. he was restored to his paternal titles. He died however in the reign of Richard III. 1485, unmarried, and the earldom of Worcester lay dormant until 1514, when

Charles Somerset, Lord Herbert, and lord-chamberlain to King Henry VIII. became the seventh earl. He, although a natural son of Henry Duke of Somerset by Joan Hill, was nevertheless legitimated, as the only surviving descendant in the male line of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster. He proved himself indeed worthy of these favours; for being possessed of superior abilities, he was early distinguished, and in the first year of Henry VII. was so noticed by that prudent prince, that he was constituted one of his privy-council, and shortly afterwards appointed constable of Helmsley Castle in Yorkshire, admiral of the fleet, and chamberlain of the household. These honourable offices led to his marriage with Elizabeth, sole daughter and heiress of William Herbert, Earl of Huntingdon and Pembroke, through which he became dignified with the title of Lord Herbert, with summons to parliament, and was soon after appointed governor of Powis and Montgomery Castles, in Wales. On the accession of Henry VIII. he retained all his offices; and accompanied that monarch in his expedition to France at the head of 6000 men. Having distinguished himself highly at the capture of Terouenne and Tournay, and in other heroic adventures, Henry bestowed on him the grant of lord-chamberlain for life; and soon after, on account of his noble descent and near alliance in blood to the monarch himself, he was created earl of this county. He now received daily fresh honours, attending the Lady Mary, the king's sister, upon her coronation in France; and being afterwards employed, conjointly with the Bishop of Ely, in confirming the articles of peace with that court; and also undertaking the same service between the Emperor of Germany and the French king. He died in 1526, and was succeeded by his eldest son.

Henry Somerset, the eighth earl, who, for his gallantry in the French campaigns, had been knighted, during his father's
life

life time, by the Duke of Suffolk; and shortly after his father's death was appointed one of the commissioners in a treaty with France. By his wife Elizabeth, daughter to Sir Anthony Browne, Knt. and standard-bearer to Henry VII. he left issue, the eldest of whom,

William Somerset succeeded, and was ninth earl of Worcester. He was knight of the garter in the reign of Edward VI. and was afterwards one of the peers who sat on the trial of Mary Queen of Scots. By his wife Christian, daughter of Lord North, he had an only son, and dying in 1587,

Edward Somerset succeeded as tenth earl. He was in high favour with James I. and by his wife Elizabeth, daughter of the Earl of Huntingdon, left several sons, the eldest of whom,

Henry Somerset, was eleventh earl; and soon after by Charles I. was created in 1642 a marquis of the same county. He left a son,

Edward Somerset, second *Marquis of Worcester*, well known during his father's life time as Earl of Glamorgan. His son,

Henry Somerset, third marquis, was, in 1682, created Duke of Beaufort; and the title being thus merged in a higher dignity, it is unnecessary to trace it farther. Of other titles taken from places in this county, we have only occasion to enumerate

LYGON, VISCOUNT BEAUCHAMP, OF POWICK.

BEAUCHAMP, OF HOLT, BARON OF KIDDERMINSTER, extinct.

SOMERS, BARON OF EVESHAM, extinct, but revived.

SANDYS, BARON OF OMBERSLEY, now Marchioness of Downshire.

LYTTELTON, BARON OF FRANKLEY,

RUSHOUT, BARON OF NORTHWICK.

Besides which, were the Beauchamps, Barons of Elmley, the Beauchamps of Holt and Powick, &c. now extinct.

Having thus traced the dignities connected with this county, we naturally come to a consideration of the

CHANGES AND STATE OF PROPERTY,

Great part of which, previous to the Norman Conquest, was in the hands of the church, but granted by William to his favourites and principal officers. A very small portion, if any, is at present in the possession of descendants from the first grantees; for in the early reigns the great families of this county were alternately ruined by the revolutions in the government, each in their turn having adhered to the losing side.* William Beauchamp, baron of Elmley, who possessed a great extent of land by descent from Urso d'Abbot, lost it all in the wars between the Empress Maud and King Stephen, for having taken part with the former. Stephen confiscated his estates, deprived him of his hereditary trust as sheriff, and bestowed the government of the county on Walleran Count de Mellent, who, we have already seen, was also created Earl of Worcester. This change, however, was in some measure superseded on the accession of Henry II. when Beauchamp was restored to his power as sheriff, and also recovered his lands. In the frequent baronial contests with King John, Walter Beauchamp, grandson of William, was a material sufferer, he having taken up the cause of the barons; and on the re-establishment of John's power, the church of Worcester, to whom the king was very partial, laid hold of that opportunity of enlarging their precincts, by which they so much diminished the accommodations of the castle, as to render it no longer fit for the habitation of the sheriff, and his retinue, from which time it began to fall into decay. At this period, all the county was either in the hands of the church, or of a few barons; nor was it until much later that a more general division of landed property, from various causes, had taken place. In the reign of Richard II. the Beauchamps, then earls of Warwick, were again deprived of their estates; and in that of Richard III. Sir Humphrey Stafford, of

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Grafton,

* Nash's Survey.

Grafton, and William Sheldon, Esq. of Beoly, both holding considerable landed property, being in arms at Bosworthfield, were subjected to confiscation by the victorious Henry. But, as Dr Nash observes, the greatest forfeiture of property in this county was occasioned by the attainder and execution of Edward Earl of Warwick, who had taken the part of Perkin Warbeck against Henry VII. for he having possession of the formerly confiscated estates of his ancestors, and his very extensive property laying in different parts of this county, that monarch, and several of his successors, were thereby enabled to make grants to their various favourites,

Considerable changes also took place on the dissolution of the abbeys, and other religious houses, in the reign of Henry VIII. these being granted to a number of individuals, as well as their estates, by which means a numerous gentry were established. Subsequent changes were produced in this county by Lord Essex's plot, in which the Littletons of Frankley, Sir Henry Bromley of Upton-on-Severn, and many other respectable families, were concerned: and the changes and forfeitures consequent upon this were scarcely settled, when early in the following reign the discovery of the gunpowder plot again involved the Littletons, the Winters of Hoddington, Habington, or Abington, of Hindlip, and several others.

During the varying and protracted contest between Charles I. and the parliament, particularly as this county was often the scene of warfare, it was impossible for the gentry to continue neutral: consequently the greater number, especially those of the highest rank, continued to support the royal cause; but it must also be confessed that many families of high character and respectability, took what they then considered as the side of constitutional liberty. In that unhappy war many estates were spent or dilapidated, and very few could be said to be acquired; for when the church lands were offered for sale, they were so highly valued by the parliamentary surveyors, that though they were sold nominally only for a few years' purchase, yet there were few of the purchasers that were not losers by their bargains.

Of

Of recent changes it is needless to speak, for they have been numerous and rapid indeed, and we are sorry to attribute them to a cause, on which Dr. Nash has expatiated at a considerable length; we hope, indeed, that the day is now gone past when gambling, and other species of dissipation, shall reduce respectable families to ruin; and we know that these causes, though they may once have operated, are at present but little felt in this county; yet from various other causes, a number of sales are every day taking place, so that any detailed account of the present state of property might soon become obsolete. It is a curious fact also, as far as relates to the

ANCIENT FAMILIES

of the county, that of all those who entered their arms in the first visitation of the county by Thomas Benoit, Clarencieux King of Arms in 1533, there are only seven families now in existence possessing property in Worcestershire: these are, Talbot of Grafton, now earls of Shrewsbury; Sheldon of Beoly; Lyttelton of Frankley, now Lord Lyttelton; Meysey of Shakenhurst; * Blount of Sodington, now baronets; Hornyold of Blackmore-Park; and Knotsford, of Holdfast; and even of these, there are only two who reside on the ancient seat of the family. Again in 1683, was the last visitation, of which there are but few vestiges now in existence: these are, Rumny of Suckley; Bearcroft of Shernock Court; Meysey of Mamble; Foley of Stourbridge; Cooke of Bentley, and Norgrove, now baronets; Foley of Whitley Court, representative of the former family, and now Lord Foley; Vernon of Hanbury; Berkeley of Spetchley; Lygon of Madresfield, now Viscount Beauchamp of Powick; Bourne of Acton-hall; Cooksey of White Ladies; Rushout of Northwick, now Lord Northwick: and even of these which are enumerated by Dr. Nash about thirty years ago, some have since changed their residence, and some we believe are extinct.

From these frequent changes† the landed property of this

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county,

* This family we understand is now extinct.

† Pitt's Survey of Worcestershire.

county, like that of all the other commercial districts in the kingdom, has been divided among individuals of every rank in society; these, as Mr. Pitt observes, consisting of the peer, the titled commoner, the opulent esquire, the merchant, thriving manufacturer, or tradesman, together with the less opulent, but still independent freeholder and yeoman; for land being often upon sale, becomes of course the property of those who have saved money to purchase, as it may have been acquired by hereditary descent, by trade or agriculture; of all which descriptions there are many instances in this flourishing district: so that upon the whole at the present day, besides the people of high rank and extensive estates, there are also many resident families of considerable opulence and independence. In order to elucidate this more fully, there is here subjoined a

LIST OF COUNTRY SEATS AND OCCUPANTS.

- Ombersley Court.* Marchioness of Downshire.
Croome Park. Earl of Coventry.
Spring Hill. Ditto Ditto.*
Howell Grange. Earl of Plymouth.
Grafton Hall. Earl of Shrewsbury.
Mudresfield. Lord Viscount Beauchamp of Powick.
Hartlebury Castle. Bishop of Worcester.
Hagley. Lord Lyttleton.
Whitley Court. Lord Foley.
Northwick Park. Lord Northwick.
Harvington Hall. Sir John Throckmorton, Bart.
Stanford Court. Sir Thomas Winnington, Bart.
Westwood Park. Sir Herbert Packington, Bart.
Yardiston. Sir William Smith, Bart.
Dripsill. Sir Charles Trubshaw Withers, Knt.
Abberley Lodge. R. Bromley, Esq.
Alsot Park, near Shipston. Mrs. West.

Areley

* Now advertised to be let.

- Aspley Hall*, near Stowport. ——— Zachary, Esq.
 ——— seat near to. Rev. Mr. Hume.
Beckford, near Pershore. William Wakeman, Esq.
Bell Hall, near Hagley. Mrs. Noel.
Booby Hall, near Bromsgrove. Thomas Holmes, Esq.
Bewdley, a seat near to. ——— Folyot, Esq.
Birlingham, near to. Rev. Mr. Bradstock.
 ——— General Amberst.
Blackmore Park, near Malvern. T. Hotnyold, Esq.
Blakes, near Kemsey. ——— Spratt, Esq.
Bordesley Park, near Bromsgrove. Thomas Guest, Esq.
Brabourne House, near Ketsey. George Cooke, Esq.
Bredon, seat near to. John Darke, Esq.
Broadway, near Coteridge. Thomas Newnham, Esq.
Brokefield House, near Kidderminster. ——— Scawen, Esq.
Bromsgrove, seat near to. Lady Moystyn.
Chadwick Manor, near Bromsgrove. ——— Carpenter, Esq.
Claines, seat near to. Richard Yeoman, Esq.
Clent Hall, near Hagley. J. Amphlett, Esq.
Commerton, near Kidderminster. T. Stewart, Esq.
Coteridge, seat near to. ——— Freeman, Esq.
 ——— Rowland Berkeley, Esq.
 ——— R. Brokeby, Esq.
Crofton Hall, near Bromsgrove. R. Biddulph, Esq.
Dalesford. Warren Hastings, Esq.
Dodenton, near Coteridge. ——— Court, Esq.
Drake's Place, near Upton.
Drayton House, near Chaddesley Corbet. T. S. Vernon, Esq.
 ——— near to. W. Wilkinson, Esq.
Eastham, near Tenbury. Rev. C. Whitehead.
Elms, near Abberley. Mrs. Berry.
Farnham Abbey, near Broadway. Late W. Porter, Esq.
Finshall House, near Bromsgrove. E. Brettell, Esq.
Glasson, or Glasshampton. W. M. Moseley, Esq.
Hadsor House, near Droitwich. Rev. Reginald Pindar.

- Hagley*, a seat near to. W. Waldron, Esq.
Hanbury Hall, near Droitwich. John Philips, Esq.
Ham Court, near Upton. John Martin, Esq.
 ——— near Stratford Bridge. Major Bland.
Hanley on the hill, near Stanford. Col. Newport.
Hawford Lodge, near Droitwich. ——— Welsh, Esq.
Hindlip, near Worcester. Now a boarding-school.
Hobon Hall, near Bromsgrove. R. Wilmot, Esq.
Holt Castle, near Worcester. Occupied by a farmer.
Honington Hall, near Shipston. George Townshend, Esq.
Hurcot House, near Kidderminster. ——— ———
Idlecote, near Shipston. Rev. F. Fisher.
Kemsey, a seat near to. J. J. Ellis, Esq.
 ——— ——— ——— Rev. G. Boulton.
 ——— ——— ——— John Fortescue, Esq.
Knightsford Bridge, near Coteridge. Rev. Dr. Stillingfleet.
Leigh Court, near Coteridge. John Spooner, Esq.
Lower Eatington, near Shipston. E. Shirley, Esq.
Lyndridge, a boarding-school, but about to be occupied by the
 Rev. Dr. Evans.
Moseley Hall, John Taylor, Esq.
Newnham Court, near Tenbury. Late ——— Rock, Esq.
Norton Lodge, Whittington, near Worcester. ——— Bird, Esq.
Overbury, near Pershore. James Martin, Esq.
Park Hall, near Kidderminster. Jacob Turner, Esq.
Pedmore Hall, near Stourbridge. John Freeman, Esq.
Perdiswell House, near Worcester. H. Wallisman, Esq.
Powick. William Russell, Esq.
Quarry, near Stourbridge. J. Owen, Esq.
Ribbesford Court. ——— Prattington, Esq.
Riddhill, near Kemsey. ——— Lechmere, Esq.
Rose Place, near Worcester. T. Williams, Esq.
Sandbourn, near Bewdley. ——— Solly, Esq.
Severn End, near Upton. Occupied by Mr. Terret.
Shakenhurst, near Bewdley, Ed. Wigley, Esq.

Spetchley

Spetchley. T. Bartlett, Esq.
Spring Grove, near Bewdley. S. Skey, Esq.
St. Johns, a seat near to. R. Higgins, Esq.
Stone, near Kidderminster. William Pratt, Esq.
Summer Hill, near Kidderminster. J. Widnell, Esq.
Tatlington Hall, near Shipston. Miss Parker.
Tidmington, near Shipston. T. Snow, Esq.
Thorn Grove, near Worcester. MONS. LUCIEN BUONAPARTE.
Waysley House, near Kidderminster. J. Baker, Esq.
Whitborne Court, near Coteridge. Richard Chambers, Esq.
Whiteford Lodge, near Bromsgrove. ————
White Lady Aston, near Worcester. ————
Winterdyne House, near Bewdley. W. Moseley, Esq.
Winterfold, near Kidderminster. William Wheeler, Esq.
Woodrow, near Bromsgrove. ———— Fitkin, Esq.
Wooller Hill, near Eckington, C. Handforth, Esq. *

The county of Worcester has always been remarkable for the salubrity of its

CLIMATE.—Camden, in his quaint style, tells us, that to give a brief idea of the county, he need only observe, that the air and soil are so favourable, that it yields to none of the neighbouring counties for healthfulness and plenty. Even in his time, that of Elizabeth, he describes it as abounding in pears, “which, though less pleasing to nicer palates, and not keeping well, have a kind of wine made of their juice, called *Pyrry*, in great demand, though, like all of those kinds of liquors, cold and flatulent.”

Mr. Pomeroy, who drew up the first modern survey of this

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county,

* In this very extended list, care has been taken to make it as correct as possible, both from personal observation and enquiry; but those who are best acquainted with the county, will be the readiest to make allowance for errors.

county, for the Board of Agriculture, dwells particularly on the temperature of its air, and very justly observes, that even in its highest situations, it is not so bleak as considerably to impede vegetation; to which he adds, that there are not any extensive tracts in the low lands of boggy soil, to injure it by their exhalations. We cannot help noticing, however, that there is a degree of wild bleakness on the north-western range of the Broadway hills, that reminds the traveller, very much, of some of the mountainous tracts in Derbyshire; in which too, the similarity is more striking, from the stone walls, which serve for inclosures. Yet it must be confessed, that this degree of cold and bleakness does not appear on the Bredon, or Malvern hills, which are of an equal height. This is perhaps owing, in some degree, to the difference of aspect, and will doubtless be considerably corrected, when the very extensive plantations in the neighbourhood of Springhill, Farnham Abbey, and Northwick, shall have arrived at a greater degree of maturity; as the shelter they will then afford, may have a genial effect on such hedge-rows as may then be planted with a fair prospect of their succeeding. A later writer, who has made his Agricultural Observations with great accuracy, has entered into more particular details than any of his predecessors *, and describes the climate of Worcestershire, especially the middle, south, and western parts of the county, as remarkably mild, soft, healthy, and salubrious; as the vale of Severn, but little elevated above the level of the sea, and the vallies of the Avon and Teme nearly upon the same level, with the adjoining uplands, seldom rising above 100, or at most 150 feet above their level, have at this low elevation, a warmth and softness which ripens the grain, and brings to perfection the produce of the earth, from a fortnight to a month earlier than in more elevated countries, even where the soil and surface are similar. This he exemplifies by a reference to Bredon Hill, and the others in its vicinity, which are of such considerable height and magnitude, as to be seen at a great distance. These he considers,

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* Pitt's Agricultural Report, pages 3, 4, 5.

particularly Bredon hill, as having from 800 to 900 feet elevation above the Avon; and he describes them as the only bleak and inclement parts of the county, whilst the low lands and fertile vales have an atmosphere as warm and salubrious, as in any part of the kingdom. Amongst the inclement parts of the county, comparatively speaking, we ought also perhaps to include the Lickey, which rises to the north-east of Bromsgrove, in a ridge of high hills, and runs towards Hagley, to the north, diverging also to the east; some of its peaks having an elevation of 800 or 900 feet above the general level. This district, however, is by no means so bleak as the Broadway hills, though farther to the northward; yet, as Mr. Pitt thinks, may be considered, from its height, exposure, and consequent inclement atmosphere, to be in respect to climate, as three or four degrees further north than the more fertile parts of the county. This he grounds upon a general calculation, that sixty yards of elevation are fully equal to a degree of latitude; or in other words, that sixty yards up hill has the same effect as if the land was removed sixty miles to the northward; and he corroborates it, by his own observations in the autumn of 1805, when the harvest of the lower regions was finished in the first week in September; but in the range between Bromsgrove and Birmingham more backward; as there, of the various kinds of grain, though part was cut, yet some was still growing, some of it not yet ripe, and no wheat then carried.

The Malvern hills, though nothing more than sheep-walks, have yet a most salubrious climate, as will be noticed more fully in another place; and the north-western parts of the county, particularly about Abberley, though of equal elevation to any other district, seem to have a much warmer aspect than either the Lickey or Broadway hills, which may perhaps in a great degree be owing to the shelter of the woods and other plantations which are so frequent there. Mr. Pitt is also of opinion, that less rain falls in Worcestershire, than in some, even of the nearest counties; in Staffordshire, he adds, that the annual quantity has exceeded

thirty;

thirty-six inches, whilst in Worcestershire, the land laying lower, and having fewer hills to attract and break the clouds in their flight from the Atlantic, a smaller quantity of annual moisture must be supposed to take place. As the

SOIL AND SURFACE of a county so extensive, and so varied in its outline, require a more accurate investigation than is within the power of the most accurate Tourist, it would be doing injustice to the subject, not to avail ourselves of the very diffuse observations of late Agricultural writers, who, of course must have paid particular attention to these very interesting features*.

The soil is various; consisting chiefly of rich loamy sand, in those districts immediately north of Worcester, mixed with a small proportion of gravel: this, however, relates principally to the central part of the county; for there is some very light sand, with a few spots of clay, and some of peat earth, towards the east: in the eastern district, indeed, the soil is in general a strong clay; but the waste land, which, when Pomeroy wrote, was very considerable, was principally of deep, black, peat earth. Between Worcester and the vale of Evesham, the soil is partly red marl, and partly strong clay, with some sandy loam; and there is also a small vein of land which partakes of each of these qualities; whilst the subsoil, more especially under the sandy loam, consists of limestone. In the vale itself, the soil is particularly deep; of a darkish coloured earth, with a substratum, in many parts of clay, and some gravel. Beyond this, on the confines of the county, and in the small detached parts, including a small part of the Cotswould hills, (that run into this county,) a limestone prevails on the upper land, and a rich loam in the lower. Between Worcester and Malvern, the general character of the soil is a clay mixed with gravel in different proportions. To the left of this line, including Malvern Chace, a deep surface of clay is found in some places; in others, a rich loam, inclining to sand; the substratum is supposed to be marl. In the central parts of

* Pomeroy's Agricultural Survey.

the western district, a strong clay is sometimes found, becoming gradually gravelly towards the light sands in the north. In each of these districts, some rocky and stony soil is met; but according to Mr. Pomeroy, no traces of flint or chalk: nor did the editor of these sheets meet with any specimens of either, after a very careful investigation of the different lime quarries, particularly in the neighbourhood of Abberley. Speaking of the vale of Severn, Mr. Pitt describes it as containing probably ten thousand acres of a deep and rich sediment, deposited from time immemorial, by the waters of this river, and by its tributary streams; this sediment in some places consists of a pure water clay adapted for brick-making, but generally of a rich mud, fertile, and favourable to vegetation.

Mr. Pomeroy has drawn an elegant picture of the landscape of this county; he describes the face of it, when viewed from any of the numerous eminences, in the surrounding counties, as approaching rather to a plain; the gentle slopes and risings to the east and west of Worcester, remaining scarcely any longer discernible. From these points of view, the state of its cultivation appears to very great advantage, as there are no tracts of any considerable extent, so barren, or so totally neglected, as to be without an agreeable and profitable verdure. On a nearer view, from the central hill, which rises more particularly to the east of the city, a most beautiful landscape presents itself; the whole of the back ground, which, at its greatest distance, does not exceed twelve, and no where approaches nearer than eight miles, (allowing something for the openings to the south-west and north) appears to be one continuation of noble hills, forming, as it were, the frame of the delightful picture that presents itself in the centre, diversified with all the beauties of hill, dale, wood, and water. If, continues Mr. P., the Abberley and Whitley hills occasion some irregularity in the frame, they will scarcely be thought to take off from the beauty of the piece; these and the adjoining hills, rising with a bold front, and most of them cultivated to their summits, recal to the mind, the enthusiastic description

scription of Italy; and the sheep, hanging as it were, from the brows of others, illustrate the much admired idea of the *Paesaggio*, and poet.

In this animated description, however, Mr. P. has not noted the effect resulting from a nearer view of the hop grounds and flowery orchards, that fill the breast with supreme delight, while rambling over this fertile district; and it is to be lamented, that so few of our artists have ever thought of making it the subject of their studies. The late Earl of Orford very justly observed, that in a country, like England, so profusely beautified with the amenities of nature, it is extraordinary that we have produced so few good painters of landscape. As our poets, adds he, warm their imaginations with sunny hills, or sigh after grottoes and cooling breezes, our painters draw rocks and precipices, and castellated mountains, because *Virgil* gasped for breath at Naples, and *Salvator* wandered amidst Alps and Appennines. On ever verdant lawns, rich vales, fields, and haycocks, and hop-grounds, are neglected as homely and familiar subjects. The latter too are entirely forgotten, although they are extremely picturesque, particularly in the season of gathering, when some tendrils are ambitiously climbing, and others dangling in natural festoons; whilst poles, despoiled of their garlands, are erected into easy pyramids, that contrast well with the lesser and upright ones yet standing. It is to be hoped, that some native provincial artist may yet start up to do away this just complaint, and we have no doubt that there are people of sufficient taste in the county, to give such an one, all the encouragement he might merit. It must not be supposed, however, that the whole of the county presents this picturesque beauty to the eye of the traveller. Several districts are rather deficient in it; particularly † from Droitwich to Bromsgrove, and its neighbourhood, where the road, in general, takes a high level, and occasionally affords an extensive view, but quite of a different nature to the other parts

* Walpole's Works, Vol. IV. p. 450.

† Vide Warner's Tour to the Northern Counties.

of the county. If charmed with the rich luxuriance of vegetation, and the fine fringes of wood skirting the pastures which present themselves on all sides in the southern parts of Worcestershire; yet here the tourist finds them gradually to disappear as he proceeds towards the north, and meets with a nakedness and deficiency of the warmth of landscape, which can only be accounted for from the comparative poverty of the red sandy soil, and the greater elevation.

The general distribution of soil through the county, has been estimated on the following scale:*

	<i>Acres.</i>
Light sand, sandy loam, gravelly loam, &c.	120,000
Friable loam, adapted for turnips, hops, and fruit,	120,000
Strong clay loam, for wheat and beans, &c.	120,000
Natural meadows on the banks of rivers,	50,000
Grass land, including parks, plantations, &c.	50,000
Wood lands, roads, towns, rivers, gardens, &c.	20,000
Wastes and commons,	50,000
	500,000

This estimate has been further illustrated by stating the

	<i>Acres.</i>
Common fields of arable land, equal to	20,000
Inclosed ditto	340,000
Permanent grass land	100,000
Kitchen gardens, &c.	5,000
Woods, wastes, rivers, roads, &c.	35,000
	500,000

According to Mr. Pomeroy's statement, confirmed by Mr. Pitt, and agreeing with the observations of the editor, none of the farms are extravagantly large; some being small, from forty to fifty pounds, and thus increasing up to three hundred pounds per annum. Some indeed are larger, but the smaller class

* Vide Pitt's Survey, p. 11.

of farms predominate; and though the county may, by the advocates for large farms, be supposed to lose the advantages attendant upon them, such as experimental cultivation upon a large scale, improved instruments, &c. yet we are rather of opinion that all these advantages are enjoyed to a considerable extent in Worcestershire, and will soon be more so, as the number of *Gentlemen* who occupy land, has increased considerably of late years; several of whom hold forth very laudable examples of improvement. Amongst these we may enumerate the farms at Lea Castle, Wolverley; Mr. Lechmere's, at the Ridd and Severn End, the latter of which we believe is recently in other occupation; Mr. Carpenter's, at Chadlesley, &c. &c.

To give a detailed estimate of the *Produce* of the county, is far beyond our limits or plan; we must therefore refer to Mr. Pitt's Survey; but it will afford some slight idea of the subject, if we state his estimate concerning wheat. In 360,000 acres of arable land, he estimates 43,500 acres as laid down in wheat, yielding from twenty to thirty-two bushels per acre, or 1,200,000 bushels on an average. From this he deducts 108,750 bushels for seed, at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per acre, leaving a nett annual produce of 1,091,250 bushels; a quantity which we hope will soon be much increased from the number of enclosures now in hand in various parts of the county.

Though the *Rents* in this county, as in all others, have been long paid in money, it excited some surprize, to find Mr. Pitt declaring that slight personal services are sometimes required, as team-work, keeping a game dog for the landlord, &c. This, however, we believe not to be very common; and we are sorry to find that a considerable rise in rents has taken place, even since he wrote in 1806. At that period, common field farms with inclosures near the homestead, were twenty shillings per acre; inclosed farms of inferior land about the same price, but those of a superior quality as high as thirty shillings. Some few instances, he says, then existed of whole farms let from forty to fifty shillings per acre, all round, but then these were of superior staple and contained a great proportion of pasture or meadow land,

near to commercial and populous towns ; the rents of course were considerably higher ; the meadows on the banks of Severn, and water meadows in other districts, letting for four or five pounds per acre. Now, however, even these rents are raised in many instances in a proportion of one-third. It must indeed be allowed, that in numberless instances throughout the kingdom, the raising of rents has produced a better system of husbandry, and elicited a spirit of attentive industry that had long lain dormant ; and we will acknowledge that where there are many competitors at every sale, who will give almost any price for it, it is not surprising that landholders will raise their rents in proportion : but there must be bounds to every thing, and the land-owners will find, when perhaps too late, that a *nominal* increase in their rent roll does not make them richer, as the consequent rise upon all other articles, in proportion as corn rises, together with the increase of poors' rates, will always counterbalance this *nominal* advantage. Whilst rents are thus rapidly and improvidently raised, the price of corn cannot be expected to fall, even in a plentiful harvest ; but this subject would carry us far beyond our limits ; the editor of these sheets must confess, however, that these considerations prevented any surprize on his part, when he heard the farmers in Worcestershire complain that corn was too cheap, and that at a time when the public were suffering under high prices, and calling out for a stoppage of the distillation from grain.

The *Tenures* in this county are various ; there is much freehold land ; copyholds also are frequent, with the usual heriots, or fines ; church and corporate leaseholds too are numerous, with small reserved rents, but considerable fines in renewing dropped lives, and calculated on the same scale of increase, with the advanced rents in other instances.

Having thus slightly noticed the surface of the county, it may be expected that we should pay some attention to its

MINERALOGY.

Much indeed cannot be said on this subject, for (as in all the other fertile counties of England,) little is to be found under the surface

surface, where the external produce is so luxuriant. Yet if Worcestershire cannot boast its mines of lead or iron ore, it is not deficient in a variety of subterranean strata, which may in some measure be considered as equally useful. There is no scarcity of clay fit for brick; nor of lime-stone in the hills,* where considerable quantities of it might be burnt for use, if coal could be more conveniently brought to the spot, the want of which prevents it being more used as a manure. Some coal, however, is raised in the north-western district, particularly about Mable, where there is a railway leading to the Leominster canal, as will be more particularly noticed in another place; at Pensax also there are coal mines, much used for coke for the hop kilns; and some of this finds its way to Whitley and Abberley for the lime-pits. At present, however, there is very little prospect of these mines becoming of any great value to the county, for the vein is little more than two feet in thickness, and that too at a depth of twenty yards, from whence the water must be raised by manual labour in buckets as the mines will not afford the expense of a steam engine. Worcestershire therefore is obliged principally to depend on the Staffordshire mines, whose produce is brought down the Severn: but such is the want of fuel in many parts of the county, that even in the vale of Evesham, the poor are glad to burn the bean stubble, which the farmers are willing to give them, considering it as injurious to the ground if plowed in.

Quartz which is a silicious, and by some considered as an aboriginal production, is found in great plenty in the Malvern hills, as will be more fully noticed hereafter; and much of it may be traced in the Lickey near Bromsgrove.

Freestone fit for building, is found in different parts. In Cleeve Prior parish† are quarries of very good stone, fit for barn-floors and other uses; some of it bears a fine polish like Derbyshire marble, and not inferior to it. The beds lie from four to twelve, or fourteen

Pitt's Agricultural Survey.

† Nash's Survey.

teen feet below the surface. By means of the Avon navigation, large quantities from these quarries are sent to various parts in the neighbourhood of the county, which have for some time opened a branch of business of some importance, as affording employment to many who might otherwise have been in idleness. A reddish stone is to be found also in extensive quarries on the Broadway hills.

The *Limestone* quarries about Dudley are very extensive, and extremely curious as excavations, particularly under the castle; but as that is considered as belonging properly to Staffordshire, whilst the town of Dudley stands in this county, some apology may be considered as necessary for introducing in this place a description of them, for which we are in a great measure indebted to Mr. Warner in his *Northern Tour*. He describes his route, in quitting Stourbridge for Dudley, in which in fact he crossed part of Staffordshire, as leaving the sandy soil which he had passed over for several miles, and entering upon a stiff clay, the external covering to those productive mines of coals, and that peculiar nodulated iron, which abound in that district, being partly in *Worcestershire*, but principally in *Staffordshire*. After some observations drawn from that very scientific mineralogical paper of Mr. Keir, which is to be met with in the *County History of Staffordshire*, he notices a curious fact, well worthy the observation of those who are too much in the habit of forming general theories, that the locality of ore and coal in these parts is somewhat singular, since they only extend to the distance of about six miles round Dudley, and are then lost and succeeded by sand. Speaking of the situation of Dudley, he observes that it may be considered as forming the centre of two ranges of hills, of which one runs towards the north, consisting of limestone, whilst the other takes a southerly course, and forms the Rowley hills, consisting chiefly of *basalt*. In this part of his mineralogical description, we must however differ from him, as what he calls *basalt*, is in fact nothing more than the *trapp* of Swedish mineralogists, and the *loadstone* of the English miners, so frequent in *Derbyshire*.

On the southernmost point of the limestone chain, stood the Castle of Dudley, now in ruins, and part of the town; and these are completely undermined by stupendous quarries in the rock, the entrance being about half a mile to the northward of the castle. Here, exclaims Mr. W. a prodigious scene of subterraneous excavation discovers itself, consisting of several limestone mines and tunnels worked into the rock, one of which perforates it entirely, and opens again into day, at the distance of nearly two miles from its entrance. This is thirteen feet high, and nine wide, and at one point, sixty-four feet below the surface of the earth. The caverns are truly august, being of great extent, and considerable height; their roof supported by vast rude square pillars of limestone, left for that purpose. Various marine productions are found in this mass of rock, such as *echini*, *cornua ammonis*, and other common fossils; but the rarest production of this sort is the *pediculus marinus*, or sea louse, (*the entimolitus paradoxus monoculi deperditi of Linneus*,) but called in the homely naturalist's vocabulary of the place where it is found, the *Dudley locust*. In form it resembles the common wood louse, except that it is not trilobated, and exceeds it considerably in size, some specimens being nearly five inches long, and few so small as the insect it is compared to. Being discovered only at Dudley, and one other place in the kingdom, the fossil is the more valuable, a circumstance not unknown to the venders of these productions. To enter further upon the mineralogy of this district, would trench upon the bounds of another county, we shall therefore merely observe that *Limestone*, as before mentioned, is found in the Witley and Abberley hills; and also that it forms the understratum of a considerable part of the vale of Evesham.

In the parishes of the Littletons, also, are some considerable quarries of calcareous flag-stone; which answers extremely well for flooring of barns, or even halls and kitchens, and these form a source of industry for the neighbourhood.

The *salt-springs* of Droitwich being as closely connected with the political economy of that town and neighbourhood, as with
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the mineralogy of the county, will be more fully noticed under their proper head; it is sufficient, therefore, to mention here, that the *talc*,* *gypsum*, or alabaster found above these springs, is rather of a peculiar species, being a shining, squamose, fossile stone, of a whitish color, composed of a gypseous earth, which does not ferment with acids. It readily falls to powder in the fire. If burnt without being red hot, its powder soon concretes with water, into a hard mass; hence its utility for making images, floors for houses and barns, &c. It is so hard, that the workmen never sink the salt-pits their whole diameter through it, but content themselves with boring a hole, four inches in diameter, through which the brine always rises with great rapidity. It is at present, indeed, unnecessary to sink any new pits, as some of the old ones are, singly, sufficient to supply the whole kingdom.

Mineral Springs will be more fully noticed under their respective heads; it is only necessary to observe here, that besides the wells at Malvern, there are several useful chalybeates in Kidderminster parish, of which that at Sandbourne is the strongest; at the Roundhill also, in the same parish, is one powerful in removing obstructions, and in strengthening and assisting digestion. On Burlish common is a well, called the dropping well, which is also considered as excellent for the cure of sore eyes, and several cases are well attested of its successful application.

Here also a general notice of the

FORESTS

is in some measure necessary. Worcestershire, indeed, in the earliest times, was completely covered with trees, but about the time of the conquest it was considered as having five forests, *Feckenham*, *Ombersley*, *Horewell*, *Malvern*, and *Wyre*: of the latter, however, at the present day, but a small part lies in this county, though, as we have before hinted, it is not impossible that it may have extended over great part of it, and perhaps given it a name.

Feckenham was very extensive, as it appears by an old perambulation in the reign of Edward I. that it commenced at the Fore-

gate, Worcester, and passed to Beverburn by Stour to Bordesley, round by Evesham to Spetchley, and so to Sidbury. It was disafforested in the reign of Charles I. in 1629, and has now decreased, and almost ceased to exist, from the continual demands for the salt-works at Droitwich, until within these few years that the supply of coals has been found sufficient for all the purposes of manufacture.

Ombersley forest began at the north-gate of Worcester, and extended along the banks of the Severn.

Horewell forest was in the southern district, beginning at the south-gate, and extending along the eastern road to Spetchley, from thence to Thurgarton, and across the Avon, and including all the country between the two principal rivers. These last two forests, however, have ceased to exist as such since the reign of Henry III.

Malvern forest, or *chase*, as it was latterly designated, extended, in length, from the river Teme in the north, towards Gloucestershire in the south, and from the Severn to the top of Malvern hills, where may still be traced the trench dug along the ridge, to mark its limits, and divide it from the possessions of the see of Hereford. This trench is also the divisional line of the two counties, and was dug in consequence of a long contest between the bishop, and the Earl of Gloucester to whom the forest had been granted by Edward I. in consequence of his marriage with Joan of Acres, daughter of that monarch. At the same time this Gilbert, Earl of Gloucester, received a grant of the small forest of Cors; but in consequence of these royal demesnes becoming the property of a subject, Malvern was called a *chace*, and Cors received the name of a *lawn*, losing also considerable privileges in consequence of this change.*

Wyre

* A chase is mentioned as being a place of receipt for deer and wild beasts, and as holding a middle place, between a forest and a park; and as the distinction of a forest depends on having a "justice in Eyre," which none can constitute but the crown, of course, a forest, when coming into the hands of a subject,

Wye forest occupied the north-western part of the county, extending into Shropshire and Staffordshire, under which heads it will be more properly noticed.

Besides such parts of these forests as are still in existence, there are many tracts of woodland, consisting principally of oak, and ash, and also some beech of a most excellent quality. In the hedge-rows* are great quantities of elm, which have hitherto furnished timber of a good scantling; but it is to be feared, that the present mode of lepping and pollarding in many parts of the county, will cause a considerable deterioration. Much timber of a superior size cannot now, however, be expected, from the great demand for young trees for hop-poles, and from the great price paid both for trees and underwood, for the purpose of making charcoal for the iron-works in the neighboring counties.

We shall now take a view of the

RIVERS,

which consist of the Severn, Avon, Teme, and Stour; to which may be added the smaller streams of Salwarp, Arrowe Ledden, and Rea, &c.

The river SEVERN has been often described, but perhaps never with better effect than by *Dyer*.

" ————— the mountain woods,
And winding vallies, with the various notes
Of pipe, sheep, kine, and birds, and limpid brooks,
Unite their echoes; near at hand, the wide
Majestic wave of Severn slowly rolls
Along the deep divided glebe; the flood,
And trading bark, with low contracted sail,
Jinger among the reeds and copy banks
To listen; and to view the joyous scene."

This river has been supposed to derive its Latin name of *Sabrina*

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a subject, must lose this privilege, and thereby change its name. A chase also is defined to differ from a park, in not being enclosed, being of larger extent, and having a greater variety of game, under the superintendence of a greater number of keepers, verdurers, &c. *Nash's Survey*.

* Pomcroy's Agricultural Survey.

na, from *Sabr*, "sand," and *Sabrin*, "sandy," in the ancient British language, because it is often muddy, especially when hasty rains fall on the Welch mountains. Baxter derives * it from "Ha-au-rean," which signifies the *Queen of Rivers*, and it is rather a curious coincidence, that its Saxon name *Sæferne* may be derived from the ancient appellations, or may be translated "sea-flowing." Horsley tells us that † the common opinion of the Severn being the river to which the Romans advanced, and where *Plautius* fought the Britons, seems to be very well supported from *Dion's* account; according to which *Plautius*, having left a garrison amongst the Boduni, or Dobuni, advanced still further before he came to this river, which the Britons thought impassable. Now, he adds, the Severn has most probably been the western boundary, at least of some part of the country of the *Dobuni*, and seems in all respects to answer to the circumstances of the relation.

That Severn was in the Roman district called "Flavia," may be further proved from an author already quoted, Richard the Monk, where he says, "Flavia initium cepit a mari Germanico, continetur Thamesi fluvio, *Sabrina*, a finibus Silurum Ordovicum-qui, vergit ad Septentriones et Brigantum regionem.

Its course, from its rise on Plinlimmon hill, in Montgomeryshire, has already been noticed in *Gloucestershire*, we shall therefore just observe, that it enters this county a little above Bewdley, which it separates from Wribbenhall in Kidderminster; below this it passes Ribbesford, and the Blackstone rocks, where, not many years since, it formed for itself a new channel, and now runs at some distance from the hermitage. At Stourport it receives the Stour and its canal, after passing Areley and Mitton; then passes Redstone ferry, where formerly there was another curious hermitage, on to Hartlebury, Ombersley, and Holt Castle; soon after which it receives the Salwarp, and the Droitwich canal, and before it reaches Worcester, the Beverburn, or Otterwater

* Gloss. Ant. Britann. p. 206.

† Horsley's Brit. Rom.

‡ De Situ Britannia, Bertram's Edit.

ter falls into it. Its current being thus considerably increased, it runs on towards Worcester, where, in ancient times,* there was no bridge, but, as it is said, people passed over the ford through Eyeport, or Newport-gate. It is indeed in the summer months a continued ford from thence quite down to Diglis, except right over against the College stairs, where the priory boat was formerly kept, and where there is now a ferry. About one mile further down it receives the Teme, then passing on by Kemsey, Stoke, and Upton, where there is a handsome bridge, and thence to Tewkesbury, where it receives the Avon, and enters another county.

In this river salmon were formerly so plentiful, that many persons, as Dr. Nash informs us, when they bound their children apprentices, thought it necessary to insert a clause, that they should not be fed upon salmon more than twice a week. They are not by any means now so numerous; but there is a small fish called the *Samlet*, which Pennant considers as the smallest of the trout kind,† frequent in the upper part of the Severn, and the rivers that run into it. It is by many supposed to be the fry of the salmon; but Mr. Pennant gives sufficient reasons to overturn that opinion. According to that writer, the Severn affords the *Shad* in higher perfection‡ than any other river in Britain. This fish makes its first appearance in May, but in very warm seasons in April; for its arrival, sooner or later, depends much on the temperature of the atmosphere. It continues in the river about two months, and then is succeeded by another variety. *Lampreys* are now too well known to require description; but it may surprise persons unacquainted with the sagacity and instinct of fish, to hear, that though the river Avon, at its mouth near Tewkesbury, greatly resembles the Severn, yet no salmon, shad, lamprey, or lampern, ever mistake their course, or go up the river Avon: this however is an indubitable fact, and must be accounted

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Nash's Survey.

† Pennant's British Zoolog, Vol. III. p. 466, 265.

‡ Ibid. Vol. III. 306.

for by supposing that the particles of food floating in each river, and the nature of their bottoms, must differ considerably. Camden tells us of the lampreys, that they are best and sweetest in spring; for in summer the interior nerve which serves them for a back bone, grows hard. The Italians heighten the flavour by a particular pickle; for they kill them with Malmsey, stop their mouths with nutmegs, and the holes in the head with cloves, and rolled them round with pounded filberds, crumbs of bread, oil, Malmsey, and spices, and stew them in a pan over a gentle fire for a few minutes. It may be also seen in Petulant,* and noticed indeed by any casual Rambler on Severn's banks, that innumerable quantities of what are supposed to be the fry of the Conger eel, come up this river about the month of April, preceding the sheals, which, it has been conjectured, migrate into the Severn to feed on them. These small fry swarm literally during the season, and are commonly caught in a kind of sieve made of hair cloth, fixed to a long pole. The fisherman standing on the banks during the flood tide, puts in his net as far as he can reach, drawing it out full at every sweep, and the quantity taken every tide becomes very considerable. The benefits resulting from the navigation of this river are very great, as it admits of vessels of 110 tons to Gloucester; those of eighty may go to Worcester; of sixty as far as Bewdley bridge; whilst those of thirty may go beyond the limits of the county: the whole navigation extending upwards of 160 miles from its mouth, without the assistance of any locks. This trade has been continually increasing of late years; and as far back as the year 1758, several hundred thousand tons of coals were annually shipped from Madeley and Broseley, to the different depots on its banks; from whence in return were brought grain, pig and bar iron, &c. together with earthen manufactures, wool, hops, cyder, &c. to a considerable amount. Even as far back as the before-mentioned year, there were upwards of 400 vessels of all descriptions employed solely in the river navigation; these vessels were then, and now are, of two different constructions;

* British Zoology, Vol. III. 131.

tions; the smaller ones, as barges from forty to sixty feet in length, with a single mast, a square sail to hoist when the wind is free, and in burthen from twenty to forty tons; the larger vessels, or trows, from forty to eighty tons burthen, with a mast and top-mast, both rigged so as to strike in passing under the bridges, with square sails, and often with a mizen-mast and fore and aft sails; their length from fifty to sixty feet, and breadth from sixteen to twenty, being in fact, in many instances, as now improved, fit for the navigation of the Bristol Channel. Since the canals have had an entrance from this river, boats of a fit construction for them may be seen passing along; and indeed the whole of the craft now on the Severn are in a very respectable trim, forming in some measure a nursery for the coasting trade, and ultimately for our sea service. It must be confessed, that there are some partial stoppages in this navigation, as far as regards the larger craft; for though in the lower part of the county* the river is at all times a deep still water; yet as from thence towards the northern part, there is a rise in the bottom of nearly thirty feet, so it naturally happens that, when the water is low, which is generally the case towards the close of summer, a number of shoals and shallows present themselves, and impede the progress of all but those of very little draught of water.

Notwithstanding these obstructions, this river tends greatly to promote the internal commerce of the county, and to afford a handsome competence to many respectable individuals, the proprietors of the trading craft. Some of these indeed carry on business on a very extensive scale, having not only river boats, but also canal barges, so as to avail themselves of every opportunity of conveying produce, manufactures, and imports of all kinds, between Bristol and Stourport, and the other depots on the Severn's banks. The Severn itself, like the Ocean, is a free navigation; nor are there any tolls to pay until the canals are entered. When the craft proceed upwards against the stream, and have not the advantage of a leading wind, it has been the custom to track them

* Pitt's Survey. p. 288, 261.

them by manual labour, to the number of ten or twelve men, dragging a single barge. Of late years, indeed, horses have been introduced, sometimes solely, at others one, or perhaps two, harnessed to the track rope along with half a dozen bipeds: this extraordinary *melange*, however, may soon go out of fashion, as there was a bill before the House last session, (1811) for the improvement of the "Severn Horse Towing-path," under the title of the "Extension Bill." This is a measure much wanted, as there are many parts on the banks, where, from the interruption of private property, horses cannot be employed.

The inconveniencies resulting from the disturbed state of the navigation in summer, have induced the different persons concerned to consult the best engineers on the mode of removing the shoals, or at least of forming a channel sufficiently deep at all times of the year; but there seems to be no practicable measure for that good purpose: and even the deepening of the mid-channel would only (if it were possible to execute it,) permit vessels to pass down the river with the stream, or up it with a leading wind, as all tracking would be out of the question.

Great advantages, in some measure counterbalancing these evils, may be expected to arise from a more direct communication with Birmingham, by means of the canal now in hand to lead from Worcester to that town, and which is to be constructed so as to receive vessels of considerable tonnage; this will, however, be more particularly mentioned in another place; but here we shall remark, that this idea of the junction of the rivers on each side of the kingdom, and which was realized in the Staffordshire, or Stourport Canal, in 1770, is by no means a novel one, which we shall prove by a kind of *prophetic* extract from *Dyer's Fleece*:

- " ——— swell our gentle floods,
- " And through the centre of the isle conduct
- " To naval union. Trent and *Severn's* wave,
- " By plains alone disjointed, woo to join
- " Majestic Thames. With their silver urns
- " The nimble-footed Naiads of the Springs

" Await

" Await upon the dewy lawn, to speed
 " And celebrate the union——
 " —— even, now behold,
 " Adown a thousand floods, the burden'd bark,
 " With white sails glistening through the gloomy woods
 " Haste to their harbours."

Avon is said to be a name bestowed by the Britons, on such rivers as flowed gently. This, which for distinction sake, is generally called the "Warwickshire Avon," and will be immortalized through distant ages, whilst the name of Shakespeare remains, takes its rise near Naseby in Northamptonshire, divides Warwickshire almost in equal parts, and enters Worcestershire a little above Cleeve Prior, where it receives the *Arrow*, a small river rising in the Lickey; it then passes on through the Littleton parishes, to Offenham, to Evesham, which it almost surrounds like a horse-shoe; then turning short to the northward, passes Hampton, and thence by Fladbury, Pershore, Croome, Strensham, and into the Severn at Tewkesbury. In this run of about twenty miles it also receives several smaller brooks, and is navigable for barges all through the county, having had the advantage of the introduction of locks wherever they were necessary, through which the navigation extends through the county, without interruption, except in very heavy floods or severe frosts. *Teme* takes its rise in Radnorshire, and, a little above Tenbury, enters this county. Nearly in the centre of that town a very rapid brook runs into it from Kyre park, and it then pursues a winding and rapid course through a succession of the most beautiful and romantic scenery, past the villages of Eastham, Lyndridge, and Stockton, then along the charming woods and dales of Stanford park, to Clifton and Martley, under Knightford-bridge, to Broadwas, Coteridge, Braunsford-bridge, Powick-bridge, and thence into the Severn about two miles below Worcester. In this winding course it receives several brooks, which add to the rapidity of its course, to which its name is supposed to be allusive. It is not navigable for barges beyond Powick-bridge, owing to its rapid course, and to its great declivity. If not of

any great use nowever to the county, it must be considered as one of its most picturesque ornaments, as there is no part of it which surpasses the vale of Teme in variety of hill and dale, of wooded banks, of gently swelling knolls, and open fertile lawns. In the autumn, nothing can be more delightful than a ramble through its various windings of upwards of twenty miles, midst a profusion of orchards, hop-grounds, corn and pasture land, whilst the river itself is often hid beneath its banks covered with willows, or at times bursting out in rapid grandeur, and reflecting the tufted knolls that line its course.

Stour has only risen into notice, since the canal which unites the Severn and the Mersey has been conducted along its banks. It rises near Frankley, in that detached part of Staffordshire which lies within the boundary line of this county, and runs alternately in the two shires by Halesowen and Cradley to Stourbridge, Stourton Castle, Kinver, Wolverley, Kidderminster, and Stourport, where it joins the Severn.

Salwarpe commences its short course from the Lickey, running through Bromsgrove, Stoke Prior, Upton Warin and Droitwich, where its stream was lately increased by the overflowings of the salt springs before they were turned into the new canal which now accompanies the river through Salwarpe parish past Westwood House, and thence into the Severn below Hawford bridge.

Ledden is a small river, which rising near Ledbury, in Herefordshire, forms a kind of boundary towards Gloucestershire on the south-west, near Ridmarley and Stanton.

Rea rises between Frankley and Chadwick, and running past Northfield and King's Norton, serves in some measure as a partial boundary for Stafford and Warwickshire; and running north of Moseley towards Birmingham, there quits the county. There is another brook of this name which rises near Cleobury and is seen in different parts of the road between Worcester and Tenbury. Our attention is now naturally drawn to the

CANAL

CANALS

Of this county, the advantages resulting from which must be great indeed, if they were attended with no other good than that of diminishing the number of horses employed in carriage, which in the year 1794 were supposed, on a pretty accurate calculation, to consume two-thirds of the whole annual produce. As these extensive works will be more properly considered under their various references, it is unnecessary here to do more than merely to mention their names, which are: 1. The Trent and Severn, or Staffordshire and Worcestershire, or as indeed it is more commonly called, the *Stourport Canal*. 2. The *Droitwich Canal*. 3. The *Worcester and Birmingham Canal*, not yet finished. 4. The *Dudley extension Canal*. 5. The *Leominster Canal* near *Tenbury*. With such excellent water carriage through the county, it may perhaps be supposed that the land carriage is upon an equally good footing: it must be confessed indeed, that the

ROADS

have been much improved of late years; that in some parts of the county, the principal roads from town to town, as they are supported by toll-gates, are in general in a good state of repair; and that as much of the heavy carriage is taken off them, none of them are in a very bad state with respect to ruts, &c. In some of the hilly districts, however, they are very rough and uneven, particularly in the line from Bewdley to Clebury Mortimer; and as for the cross-roads, though there are some exceptions honourable to their respective neighborhoods, yet many of them, particularly in the clay districts, are in a very bad state. As an excuse for this, it has been advanced, that there are no materials in their vicinity fit for their repair; this, however, is not always correct, as there are few districts in the county where materials might not be easily found; and it would be fortunate if those on whom their repair depends, were to recollect that prevention is often better and cheaper than cure, and that considerable amelioration would take place if proper attention were paid to the opening of ditches and drains, and also to the plashing of hedges.

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which would permit a current of air to pass through, and allow them sometimes to be visited by the genial and *evaporating* sun-beams; for it happens unfortunately that much *sun-shine*, and other of Heaven's best gifts, are expended in some parts of the county to very little purpose. To these animadversions, however, there are two honourable exceptions. Mr. Darke of Bredon, whose Memoir was published in 1794, by the Board of Agriculture, mentions that there was then an excellent example for perspicuity and attention at the head of the county, and he adds, that the late Judge Perrot used frequently to say that the late Earl of Coventry had brought a million of money into Worcestershire, from his skilful exertions in making roads through the county; and here we cannot help noticing, that the attention paid by his successor to the cross-roads round Croome, is highly praise-worthy, as they are kept in a most excellent state, and are perfectly dry and pleasant, when the coach-road in their neighbourhood is hardly passable for a pedestrian*. We must also agree with Mr. Pomeroy, that the laudable exertions of the "Society of the Vale of Evesham" for the improvement of their neighbourhood, are well worthy of imitation; and that they now have the pleasure of seeing their district assume a new face under their auspices: so that, instead of its being studiously avoided, as formerly, from the inconvenience, and even danger, of travelling, they have now to congratulate themselves and the public, on a very safe and pleasant communication, and which, indeed, has brought the direct London road from Worcester through their immediate vicinity† When these land and water communications are completed, it may be presumed that the

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* On this subject the remarks of the Editor, may be considered as resulting from experience, as great part of his Observations were actually made on foot.

† The regulations of this *Road Club* may be found in Pitt's Survey of the County, page 262; and as good sociable dinners form part of their plan, it is not likely to be *unpalatable* in any part of the kingdom.

COMMERCE AND MANUFACTURES

Of the county will feel their good effects. Even at present these are very considerable, not only from its own produce, but from its laying in a situation to make it the depot, and line of communication for the mining and manufacturing counties which almost surround it. Of its own exported produce, we may enumerate the great quantity of hops, fruit, cyder, and perry, which are bought at Worcester markets, rendering it the great mart for those articles in the western district of the kingdom; the advantages resulting from which are evident in the large fortunes made by the dealers in those articles, not only in the regular supply of a constant trade, but sometimes from lucky speculations in cheap years; speculations which have this good effect, that they are free from the evils of monopoly, as they only take place in plentiful seasons, at the same time that they ensure a market to the grower, without his being at the risk and expence of sending his surplus stock to more distant markets. This county also exports a considerable surplus of its own manufactures, in the articles of Kidderminster goods, Worcester gloves, in China and glassware, and in nails, and the smaller articles of iron-work, as well as bar-rod, and sheet-iron, for the northern parts *.

We must not omit the great quantities of salt from Droitwich, of oil and oil-cake from Evesham, and of clover and grass-seeds, corn, beans, flour, malt, salmon, fat cattle, sheep, lambs, hogs, hay, timber, large and small, from the county in general. The constant employ resulting from this extensive home commerce, and from the present improved state of agriculture, must be, and indeed is, highly beneficial to the increase of

POPULATION,

Which is evident from such of the late returns as have been published. By the returns in 1801, *Worcestershire* was calculated to contain 26,711 houses, in which were 29,741 families; of these there were 67,631 males, and 71,702 females, making a total

The manufactures here slightly mentioned, will be detailed more amply in their respective places.

total of 139,333. The number employed in trade and manufactures was estimated at 30,230, and those in agriculture at 38,865, equal in the whole to 69,095, leaving rather more than one-half, whom we may consider as consisting of those in a state of infancy, or past labour, of professional gentlemen and those of independent fortunes. This is sufficient to prove that Worcestershire ranks high in fertility and industry; for this population amounts to 180 per square mile, whilst the average of England and Wales is only 152; and it may be added, that the proportions of the manufacturing and agricultural classes, are as 3 and 4 in 7, of the whole number. By the late returns, males 78,261; females 82,740; total 161,001, giving an increase of 21,668.

It is to be lamented, that notwithstanding the great incitements to industry, the

POOR AND POOR'S RATES

have been progressively increasing for many years*. To shew this, it is only necessary to state from the various authorities, that in the reign of Charles II. the rates only amounted to 10,640l.; in 1776, to 26,906l. 7s. 5d.; in 1803, to 87,307, and in 1807, as Mr. Pitt estimates, in his survey, to near 90,000l. which, allowing the actual annual value of the county to be 690,000l. amounted then to three shillings in the pound, or to twelve shillings annually per head, on the whole population; nor does it appear, from the enquiries of the Editor, that any diminution has taken place, but that in most places they are considerably increased. Part of this increase is, no doubt, unavoidable; and great part of this actual mendicency must exist where population is extensive; where fluctuations in manufactures take place, sometimes from a state of warfare; nay, sometimes from *fashion*; where a sudden and temporary demand for particular fabrics raises the price of labour, and induces the artisan and his family to acquire habits of comparative luxury beyond their usual expenditure; nay, prompts him to idleness, from the consideration that less work now brings him more money; and particularly where the reduction of small farms throws a great part of the agricultural population

* An exception to this will be found under the article "Bromsgrove."

lation into the class of day-labourers, and not only lessens their means and power of saving money, but even takes away that stimulus which would otherwise prompt them to be economical; for the *small farmer* would scorn that parochial assistance, which the *day-labourer*, is not only not ashamed to receive, but actually considers as his due. To look for a radical cure of these *Evils*, would be absurd in the present state of human affairs; nor would it have been possible for any human wisdom, or human power, to have guarded against them; yet much may still be done to ameliorate the situation of those who more immediately suffer from them, and much may perhaps be done to counter-balance them. To add a new theory, however, to the many that have been sported on this subject, would be as inutile as it would be superfluous; yet the statement of one simple fact, on the authority of Mr. Carpenter, of Chaddeswick, as recorded in the late Agricultural Survey, may perhaps induce some thinking people to encourage the same spirit of industry in their respective neighbourhoods; and it is perhaps not going too far to say, that there is more real and useful benevolence in saving one poor family from parish support, by leading them to industry, than by the so much boasted Christmas donations to a whole parish, which, by contrasting *feasting* and *famine*, tend only to produce envy, idleness, and drunkenness, and to reduce even the respectable poor to the situation, or at least to the feelings, of paupers! The fact alluded to, is simply this: in the spring of 1800, two day-labourers gave a guinea for an acre of waste land, in order to plant it with potatoes; they pared and burnt it by moonlight, after their daily labour was over, then spread the ashes, and paid for plowing them in; their crop proved so good, and the price of potatoes was at that time so high, that they actually shared forty pounds between them, independent of a sufficient supply reserved for their families. To those who *will think*, this requires no comment. More good than has hitherto been received by the poor, might be produced by

ENCLOSURES,

which fortunately are taking place every day in this county, on a rational and liberal scale. We think it absurd to join in the cry, that the comforts of the poor are taken away, because where a poor man *fed a goose*, there is now sufficient produce to keep a horse, cow, or three sheep; and we know that the claims of the poor, when commons are enclosed, are always attended to in the allotments; but it ought not to be forgotten, that although large farms are beneficial, there is a sufficient quantity of ground already enclosed *for their supply*, and that it is possible to form such arrangements as would prevent future enclosures, or part of them at least, from ever being let in larger farms than from twenty to fifty acres, thereby always giving a certain number of families a chance of competence, and tending to preserve one of our best bulwarks, a hardy, independent, yet *humble peasantry*.

With respect to *Enclosures* in general, if any proof of their necessity was required, we should simply present the following extract from Mr. Darke's Memoir of the State of Agriculture round Bredon, in 1794:

“ The mixture of property in our fields prevents our land being drained, and one negligent farmer not opening his drains, will frequently flood the lands of ten that lie above, to the very great loss of his neighbours, and the community at large. Add to this, that although our lands are naturally well adapted to the breed of sheep, yet the draining, &c. is so little attended to in general, that, out of at least one thousand sheep, annually pastured in our open fields, not more than *forty* on an average are annually drawn out for slaughter, or other uses; infectious disorders, rot, scab, &c. sweep them off, which would not be the case if property was separated!”

Much improvement in this respect has, however, taken place, and though *Worcestershire* cannot boast of any specific *Agricultural Society*, yet as most of the gentlemen of the county are connected

meeted with that of " Bath, and the west of England," every good effect may be expected to result.

As the late Agricultural Survey contains a very accurate detailed account of the present state of enclosure in this county, we shall merely close this article with a few extracts, aided by personal enquiry and observation.

It is, and has long been, a peculiar advantage to Worcestershire, that a great part of it is *ancient* enclosure, from whence it results that the fences are often full of timber-trees, especially elm, of which perhaps the finest in the kingdom is to be found in this district: in these ancient enclosures too, the fences themselves generally consist of smooth wood, such as elm, hazel, and willow; though there is no deficiency of the hawthorn and crab-tree. An useful and valuable article has long been in the middle, southern, and western parts of the county, without any loss of ground for other purposes, by an intermixture of fruit-trees in the hedge-rows, which cannot possibly do more harm than other trees in the same situation, and which in general yield a profusion of fruit. The modern enclosures have not yet had sufficient time to make any apparent alteration in the face of the county; nor have we in any instances noticed the imitation of the old plan of raising trees in the hedge-rows; however, the mode adopted is amply sufficient for the principal purpose, they being at first made of post and rail, or else of two rows with mounds and quickset hedges planted between them; these consist generally of the white hawthorn, crab-tree, and holly, but without any admixture of the other species. The enclosures which have already taken place, lie in different parts of the county; the greatest waste and enclosure, however, is that on Bromsgrove Lickey, which has originally consisted of several thousand acres, formerly overrun with fern, furze, and heath, but now producing, in many parts, excellent crops of turnips, clover, potatoes, and corn. The highest parts of it indeed do not present a very early harvest, so as to afford much encouragement for further enclosure on its bleak summits; but the various thriving plantations on its southern and eastern declivities shew that what

is not applicable to agriculture, may become highly valuable for other purposes.

Even in the rich vale of Evesham, there are still some common fields; and indeed some of its most fertile spots are of but recent enclosure. It is a curious fact, noticed by Dr. Nash, or at least communicated by him to Mr. P. that the enclosures throughout this district, and in some other parts of the county, have diminished the growth of grain. This, however, must have arisen from the pasturage of beef and mutton holding out a greater profit to the grazier than to the farmer; and cannot possibly effect the general expediency of inclosures. Indeed the very labour of enclosing is a source of employment to the poor. Lickey enclosure cost 8l. per acre, which on 3000, was an expenditure of 24,000l. The other enclosures are those of Tidmerton, Eckington, Malvern Chase, &c. &c. We shall now close this division with the following anecdote:—

About twenty cottages standing on Bourn Heath, near Bromsgrove, when the enclosure took place there in 1802, had their land enfranchised, and their possessors now live comfortably on their own property, with well cultivated gardens, good potatoe grounds, and sufficient conveniences for keeping their stock of pigs; thereby shewing to other districts a sure and certain mode of diminishing their poor rates*.

It is unnecessary to take notice of the

CATTLE†

of this county, as there is nothing peculiar in their breed, the graziers and farmers being content to procure the best from other parts; indeed it would be but indifferent management to *raise* stock in a district so well fitted for *fattening* them. Of the different

* Pitt's Survey, p. 59.

† It is a curious fact, as recorded by Pennant, that some centuries after the reign of Edgar, *wolves* were again so plentiful in this county and its vicinity, as to become an object of Royal attention; accordingly, Edward I. issued his precept to Peter Corbett, to superintend and assist in their destruction. Zoology, Vol. I. p. 65.

ferent species useful in agriculture, either for the field or the stall, the different breeds have been chosen according to fancy, and they have all answered the purpose of the agriculturist.

There is nothing particularly curious in the

ARCHITECTURE

of the county, that will not be noticed under its proper head; but we may observe that the enquirer after ancient domestic manners, particularly in the middle walks of life, will find here many opportunities of gratifying his curiosity; for the greatest part of the land being ancient inclosures, many of the farm-houses have been erected perhaps two centuries ago, or even more, and at a period when, according to modern ideas, the general arrangements of design, either for elegance, or even for comfort or convenience, were little thought of. Yet even these antiquated mansions have an appearance of real old English respectability, much beyond the effect produced by the modern *flaring* house of red brick, with all its etceteras of Chinese rails and lawns of ten yards square.

ANCIENT MONUMENTS too, are too numerous to specify here; nor have we thought it necessary to give a list of the ancient RELIGIOUS FOUNDATIONS, as they will be found in their respective places. Having thus taken a *general view* of the county, we shall close with a slight sketch of its

PARLIAMENTARY HISTORY.

Worcestershire has sent representatives to the House, ever since the 3d year of Edward III. but there is nothing which particularly engages our attention before the Revolution, at which time, as it has continued ever since, this county has been remarkable for its independence, owing, in a great measure, to its opulent numerous gentry, and its respectable Yeomanry. The County Peers, however, possessing large estates, have always had, or at least claimed, a certain degree of influence; an influence which it is perhaps impossible totally to eradicate; an influence, indeed, not always productive of evil; but which at the same time requires a jealous watchfulness. Nay, it may be assumed, that

such an influence is useful, because by its existence it excites jealousy; for if that which is open enough to be watched were done away, another and more secret influence might ensue, not so easily guarded against. Upon the whole, it must be acknowledged, that the influence of a landlord, and of his friends, will always have weight in those cases, whether he is Peer or Commoner.

In the early part of the last century, in the reign of Queen Anne, a curious circumstance took place; Sir John Pakyn-ton, Bart. having accused Bishop Lloyd of interfering in the Election; of even writing to Sir John, telling him to desist; of writing letters to the clergy, forbidding them to use their influence for Sir John; of writing to the tenantry of the see, and threatening them with a non-renewal of their leases, provided they voted for him, &c. The charge was made out before the House, and an address went to the queen, after a long contest with the House of Peers, praying her Majesty to dismiss him from his situation of *almoner*, which was acceded to.

Some contests not worth repeating took place afterwards; but after 1742, there was no opposition until 1806, when the Honourable Mr. Lygon, was candidate for his father's place, then called to the upper House, against the Hon. Mr. Lyttleton, and succeeded; before which, in 1780, Mr. Lygon, and the Honourable E. Foley, and afterwards the Honourable Mr. Ward, had been the representatives.

On the last general election, Mr. Ward withdrew, and Mr. Lygon and his quondam antagonist, the Honourable Mr. Lyttleton, are now the sitting members.

The principal peers now possessing landed property, are the Earl of Coventry, the Earl of Plymouth, Earl of Shrewsbury, Lord Viscount Beauchamp, Lord Viscount Dudley and Ward, Lord Foley and Lord Lyttleton.

We have already stated that Worcestershire is divided into *five Hundreds*; the principal of these is

OSWALDESLOW,*

which occupies the centre, and several other parts of the county, and has *three divisions*.

The *upper division* contains the *parishes* of Armscot, Aston Magna, Blackwell, Blockley, Cleeve Prior, Cuddesden, Dailford, Darlingscote, Ditchford, Dorne, Dracot, Evenlode, Icomb, Longdon, Newbold and Tolton, Paxford, Shipston upon Stour, Tidmington, and Tredington. The *middle division* has the *parishes* of Alston, Alvechurch, Beshampton, Bredon with its members, Conderton, Crophorne and Charlton, Elmley Castle, Fladbury, Harvington, Hill and Moor, Himbleton, Hoblench, Hoddington, Crowle, Iukberrow, Norton *juxta* Bredon, Overbury, Rous Lench, Sedgebarrow, Stock and Bradley, Stoke Prior, Tiddington, Tibberton, and Throckmorton. The *lower division* includes the *parishes* of Batenhall, Bredicot, Broadwas, Berrow, Churchill, Claines Crome d' Abtot, Earls Crome or Croome, Grinley and Hallow, Hartlebury, Hill Crome, Hendlip, Holdfast and Estington, Holt, St. John's in Bedwardine, Kemsey, Knightwick, Lyndridge and Pensax, Knighton upon Teme, St. Michael's in Bedwardine, Little Malvern, Norton *juxta* Kemsey, Oddingley, Pendock, Ridmarley D' Abtot, Ripple, Spetchley, Stoulton, Upton upon Severn, Warndon, Welland, Whitstanes, Whittington and Sudbury, Whitley Parva, White Lady Aston, Wichenford, Wick Episcopi, and Wolverly.

Many of which *parishes* will be noticed in this section of the Topography; but others from their situation must of course be referred to their respective vicinities.

The object which first claims our attention is the

D 4

CITY

* In this topographical part of the Survey, the principal divisions shall be attended to, as closely as possible; but as many places will be described *along* with the principal towns in whose neighbourhood they are, any deviation from the order of the hundreds, will be regulated by the

CITY OF WORCESTER,

Which has a place not only among the most ancient and eminent cities of England, but is certainly one of the best built and most agreeably situated. There are considered but five superior to it for extent and population; and perhaps none surpass it in the pleasantness of situation; for though not very lofty, yet the principal part occupies very elevated ground along the river, from which it rises gradually, whilst the general spaciousness of its streets, which are both well paved and well lighted, and the neat appearance of its well built brick houses, give it a great resemblance to the metropolis.* Its air and climate are remarkably healthy, aided much by the regularity of its buildings, and beauty of its site on a bank rising from the Severn as above noticed, which may also literally be said to wash its walls; and we must do the leading people of the city the justice to say, that considerable improvements have been made, and at a very considerable expense, to clear and enlarge the Severn, and to supply the city with a sufficiency of water from some very extensive works on the banks of the Severn, about a mile above the bridge, at an expense of 10,000*l*. These improvements, it is to be hoped, will do away the accusation of its being an unhealthy place, particularly as the dryness of its situation in general, is so much in its favour. Indeed if we were to form our judgment from the parish registers, we might conclude from the numerous instances of longevity, that no large town could be more favourable to health than this; but still it must be confessed that much remains to be done both for cleanliness and comfort, particularly in those narrow alleys between the cathedral and the river.

Worcester's geographical situation is in lat 52° 9' N. and 2° 0' west longitude; being distant from London 111 miles W. N. W.; from Gloucester, 26 N.; from Birmingham, 27 S. W.; and from Hereford,

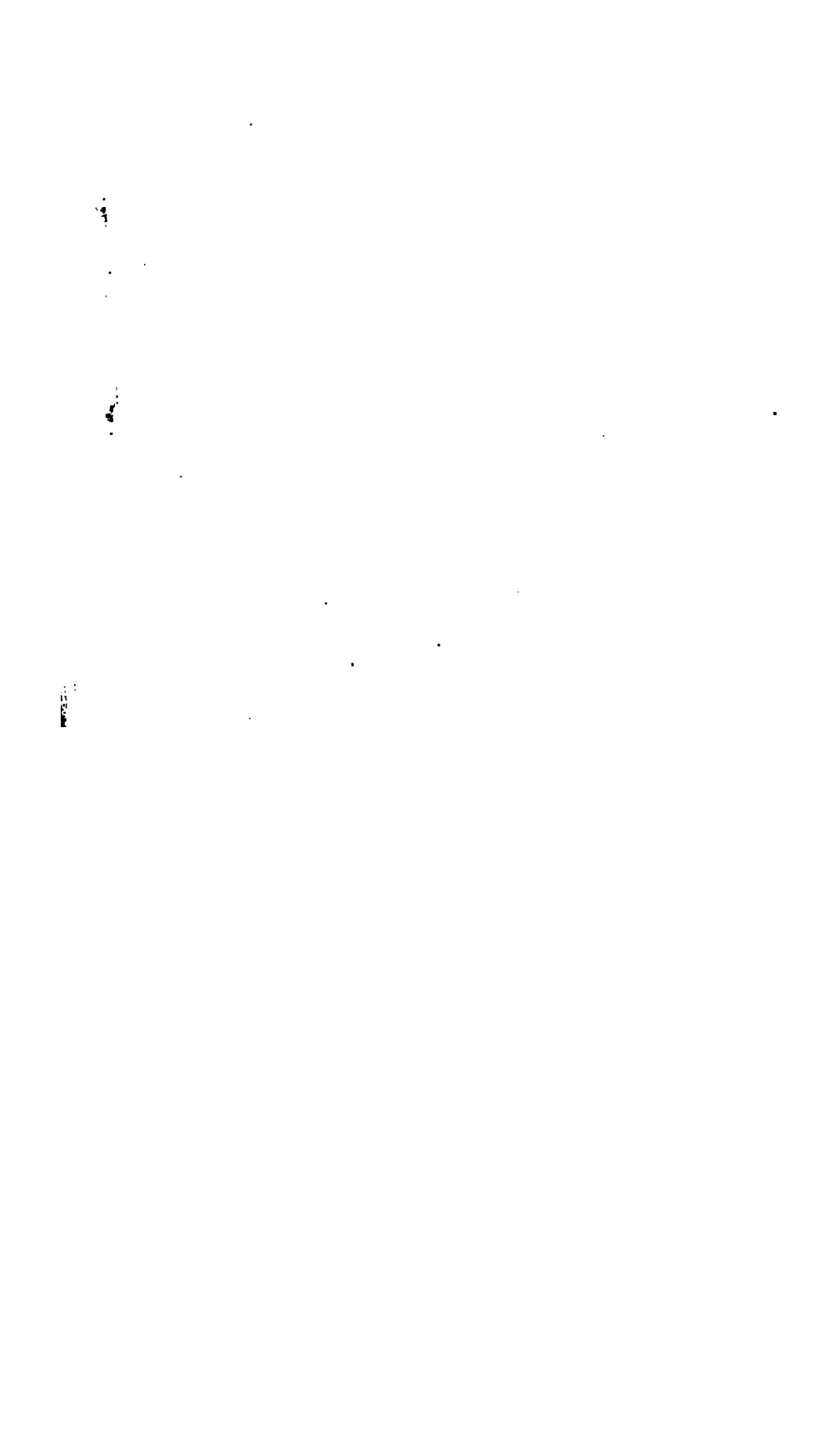
* In the *Gent. Mag.* vol. 8. p. 375, are some lines on the "Worcester Landscape" by a young gentleman of seventeen, highly descriptive.



Engraved by J. Smith from a Drawing by J. C. Smith.

See the Description of Worcester in the

WORCESTER.



Hereford, 30 E. b. N. Its circumference is about four miles, and it stands in a charming vale on the eastern bank of the Severn, nearly in the centre of the county. In our general view we have given a slight sketch of the surrounding country, which is highly deserving of notice, not only for its fertility and variety of prospect, but for the pleasing effect produced by its beautiful and often romantic outline. From the eastern blasts, it is comfortably screened by a hill covered with some fine woods, which add much to the beauty of the scenery; whilst being open from north to south in the direction of the river, a brisk current of air generally prevails, bearing health upon its wings. On the western side of the Severn the line of landscape is agreeably broken by gentle and well wooded swells, whose verdant undulations topped by the purple tinted Malvern hills, have a beautiful effect on a fine evening, and serve to complete a picture not often surpassed.

Being an ancient fortified place, this city had a very strong wall, of which some remains may yet be seen at the back of the commandery, in which were six ports or gates, said to have been handsome, but which have been taken down some years ago; and however the antiquary may regret this, yet it must be acknowledged that it has tended much to improve the principal entrances into the city. These were standing in *Leland's* time, who says "in the wall be six gates; the bridge gate on Severn, having a goodly square tower over it; a postern gate by St. Clem: Church hard by the north syde of the bridge over Severne; the Fore-gate, a fayre piece of worke, standing by north; Sudbury-gate standing east in the waye from Worcester to London; St. Martin's-gate; Trinity-gate, this is but a posterne." In describing the Fore-gate, he also says, "The Blackfriars-house, of the foundation of Beauchamps of Powick, stood in the north part of the town, hard by the wall within it; and this ground is the highest plott in the town, and hath a fayre prospect." The latest Worcester Guide very justly observes, that though the city is of great antiquity, yet its plan and construction are so regular, as to place it on a footing in that respect with any in the kingdom.

Much of this regularity, however, arises from the late recent improvements, and from those which are daily taking place in the various parts of its outskirts. To the stranger entering from the London road, nothing can be more striking than the direct communication now made from Sidbury, to the south end of the High Street close by the cathedral church-yard, which has not only added to the elegance of this entrance, but has made such direct improvement with respect to general convenience, that the public at large have already received considerable benefit from it. This entrance will also be much improved by the proposed plan on the London turnpike road, of lowering and levelling Redhill, which at present is not only difficult of ascent, but also very dangerous; one side of the road being higher than the other. This will make the traveller more cheerfully pay his double toll, which Mr. Warner in his Tour calls an imposition; he allows, however, that it is recompensed by the improvement alluded to above, by which he escapes the dangers of a narrow street and a sharp turning, and is led into the heart of the city, through the Close, and under the walls of the venerable cathedral.

Speaking of the *Streets*, the Guide with a very praise-worthy spirit of local patriotism, observes that they are in general broad, so as to admit of a free circulation of air, well paved and lighted; of these, the Fore-gate Street, the High Street, and the Broad Street, are exceedingly regular and beautiful. But here the editor must hint, that this general remark applies solely to those specified streets, with the addition of Bridge Street; and even in them he has had occasion to lament that the lamps are not a little closer in their arrangement; whilst in the other streets neither the airiness nor regularity can be matter of boasting. Much indeed remains to be done with respect to cleanliness in the streets on both sides of the city; but this perhaps depends more on the inhabitants of each, than on any possible regulations of the police, except in the articles of sweeping and draining. The Guide, however, is very correct in stating that the Fore-gate Street has a very grand effect, being a series of modern built houses of long extent,

extent, and the street equally spacious from end to end; continuing also in the same style through the High Street, to the college church-yard, a line of building not to be equalled out of London; and we must agree with him in his observation, that the general appearance of the whole city (with the exceptions already specified) does credit to its inhabitants, and indicates at the same time both taste and opulence. Mr. Green, in his very valuable work, mentions that this city is one amongst the many, that availing itself of the very essential benefits derived from paving and lighting on the modern improved plan, carried both into the fullest effect, under an act of parliament about the year 1783; he adds that the view of the Foregate Street is finely terminated by the elegant spire of St. Nicholas church, which has a most delightful effect. With this we must agree, but must still regret the turn which takes place in the hop market; for had the line been regularly preserved, there is no street, even in the metropolis itself, that could have been compared to it for beauty, though several, particularly Oxford Street, would have surpassed it in breadth and extent.

It is curious to trace the improvement of Worcester during the last three centuries; and a competent idea of it may be formed by a comparison of its present state, with that of the reign of Henry VIII. when Leland wrote, who* says "there be divers fayre streets in the town, well builded with timber; but the fayrest and most celebrate street in the town, is from the Bishop's palacagate to the foregate, along by north. There be two places in Worcester, where the markets be commonly kept. The one is a little within St. Martin's, the other is a little within Foregate."

Having been surrounded by a wall, great part of that which is now considered as within the limits, was once only the suburbs. The largest of these suburban divisions is *Sidbury*, of which Stukely says, "no doubt† but this was a Roman city; yet we could find no remains, but a place in it called Sidbury, which seems to retain from its name some memorial of that sort." Dr.

Littleton,

* Leland's Itinerary.

† Stukely's Itinerary.

Littleton, however, who was a more accurate observer, speaks with more certainty,* "the eastern suburb of this city is named Sidbury, and a huge tumulus, or barrow, above a mile distant, called Cruckbarrow still remains; both which it is probable derive their origin from the Romans."

Leland speaking of it, informs us that in his time there was "a fayre suburbe without Sidbury-gate, and it was an hospital called St. Woolstau. Some called it a Commanderye, where was a master, priestes, and poor men: some say that it was originally of the foundation of the queen. One Castor, a merchant of Worcester, gave of late tymes lands unto it, and thereby renewed the ould foundation, and in this almes were divers merchant men of Worcester, fallen in decaye and also relieved. Maureysine hath suppressed this house, and now a clothier dwelleth in it.† There is in this suburb a chappel of St. Godwald; what this St. Godwald was, I could not certainly learn. Some sayd he was a bishop." We shall have occasion to notice this commandery more fully in another place; in the mean time we shall record the ancient state of the suburbs. Of *St. Martin's*, Leland says, "there is a suburb without St. Martin's-gate, and hereabouts in a low marish ground, was a place of grey friars, of the foundation of the Earls of Warwick."

Of *St. Oswald's* he relates, "there is a large fayre suburbe by north, without the Foregate, and at the north-east part, and very end of it, is an ancient and fayre large chappel of St. Oswald, which first was erected for monkes then infected, or should after be infected with leprosie. After it was changed to an hospital, and there was a maister, fellowes, and poor folkes; but of latter tymes it was turned to a free chappel, and beareth the name of St. Oswald, as a thing dedicated of ould tyme to him, and here were wont corse to be buried in tyme of pestilence, as it is a public cemitory for Worcester. This chappel yet standith, and a fayre mansion house by it, much repayred of late tyme, by one Parker, chancel-

* Extract from the Littleton MSS.

† And now a Tanner lives in it, 1811.

chancellor to the Bishop of Worcester; but the landes be alienated and taken away. There was a place of nunnes at the very north syde of the cemetary of St Oswald. It was called *Whitestan*, now suppressed; the church cleane rased downe, and a farme place of the residew of the buildings."

In short, we may now close our general sketch of the city, with observing that whoever views it at the present day, must acknowledge it highly deserving of the praise of elegance, which is not only claimed by its inhabitants, but bestowed upon it by all visitors of taste. With the exceptions already noticed, it is fair to say, that no city in the empire has a greater appearance of general comfort and neatness, depending, in some degree, upon the very great proportion of good private houses in all the principal streets, as well as its numerous and well assorted shops, intermixed with its public buildings, churches, &c. the whole being enlivened by a constant thoroughfare, which at times, in the High Street, might induce even the Londoner to fancy himself in Cheapside.

To justify those observations, we shall now proceed to a regular investigation of its various parts, and shall commence with the

CATHEDRAL,

Which, though strangers generally admire, yet they are sometimes puzzled to tell the reason why, as its outside is extremely plain, and totally devoid of laboured ornaments. A late judicious traveller* has perhaps given the best definition of this almost *indefinable* beauty, when he says that its characteristic excellence consists in its height, space, and the lightness of its architecture, to which the lofty pinnacles rising from every termination of the building, as well as from the tower, contribute not a little; neither should the peculiar neatness which prevails within, be disregarded. It is indeed in all respects a noble specimen of the simple Gothic, nor is that simplicity at all affected by the diversities of architectural style naturally arising from its being executed by different workmen, and at different periods.

The

* Skrine's Welsh Tours.

The first cathedral church was dedicated to St. Peter, but we cannot suppose its workmanship to have been very elegant, as finished by the Saxons. For it having been burnt by order of *Hardicanute*, a short time before the Conquest, and its ruins entirely pulled down by Bishop Wulstan a short time after, the good bishop is said to have wept when he saw his workmen executing his orders, previous to the erection of a new church and monastery;* when some of his attendants endeavouring to comfort him by the reflection that the church was now coming to greater splendour, and that the increased number of holy monks required more extended accommodations, he answered "I think far otherwise; we poor wretches destroy the works of our forefathers, only to get praise to ourselves: that happy age of holy men knew not how to build stately churches, but under any roof they offered themselves living temples unto God, and, by their examples, excited those under their care to do the same; but we, on the contrary, neglecting the care of souls, labour to heap up stones." The re-edified church was burnt down again in 1113, and William of Malmesbury relates that some have asserted that Bishop Wulstan foretold this, and also that the whole city and all the rest of the churches were burnt with it; and with a true monkish faith, or, more properly speaking, impudence, he adds that not the whole church, but only the roof, was burnt, and that the tomb of the founder, or rebuilder, and the mat on which the people kneeled before his shrine, were not in the least damaged, or even discoloured by the smoke, or covered with any of the ashes of it! It was again burnt down in 1202, with all the adjacent offices of the monastery, and part of the city; but being again rebuilt, and King John buried there, it was in the presence of Henry III. his son, and of many bishops, abbots, and nobles, solemnly consecrated in 1218, by Bishop Sylvester, "to St. Mary, the mother of God, the blessed apostle St. Peter, and the holy confessors St. Oswald, and St. Wulstan."

After this a general repair took place, and a complete new front

W25

* Thomas's Survey.

was given to it. In 1301,* the pillars of the choir, and of the Lady's chapel in the east end, were beautified by Bishop Giffard, who was then lord chancellor; he interlayed small pillars in the great columns, (uniting them together by rings of gilt copper,) which small pillars some have supposed to be marble; but on a close examination, it is evident that they are a composition, which is susceptible of the highest polish. It appears from a MS. drawn up by William Hopkins, prebendary of this cathedral, and which has been copied by Habington, that greatest part of the buildings, consisting of the hall, refectory, cloyster, watergate, &c. were all built between 1320 and 1386, by Bishop Wakefield, who also lengthened the body of the church, (the north aisle having previously been vaulted by Bishop Cobham,) by adding two arches to the west end; he is recorded also to have built the north porch, an elegant specimen of the architecture of the times. From this period until the unhappy contest of Charles and the parliament, no particular alterations took place; but the dilapidations which then occurred, may be easily conceived from an extract of a work written by a cotemporary, for he informs us,† that when the whole parliamentary army from London, had arrived at Worcester under the command of the Earl of Essex, the first thing the soldiery undertook was the profanation of the cathedral, destroying the organ, breaking most of the beautiful painted windows in pieces, and with the most barbarous *sanctity* defacing the monuments of the dead. And as if this were not enough, they brought their horses into the church, and kept fires, and established their guard rooms within it. To make their wickedness more complete, adds our author, they rifled the library, with the records and evidences of the church, tore the bibles and service books belonging to the choir, and drest up their dragoons in the surpluses and other vestments, in which they afterwards paraded the streets of the city. These devastations have since that been in a great measure repaired, particularly of late years, when great improve-

* Thomas's Survey.

† Dugdale's view of the late troubles in England, 1621.

improvements have been made not only in the exterior architecture, but in the interior regulations and arrangements; these have been conducted on the most appropriate scale by the Dean and Chapter, and reflect great credit both on their taste and liberality.

After all the damages which it has suffered, and notwithstanding the unavoidable varieties of architecture which have taken place, this memorable cathedral is now an object of great interest to the man of taste. Its form is that usual one, of a double cross, displaying the grand features of the Gothic style, which consist in extent and strength; and to which we may add the solemnity of the high pointed arch, and the beauty of diminutive ornament.

The proportions of the exterior are on a grand scale; it is in length 514 feet; in breadth 78; and in height 68: and the tower, which rises from the centre of the cross aisle to the altitude of 200 feet, is ornamented at the corners by four lofty pinnacles, and with elegant battlements of light open work. This tower has by some been called heavy, yet we think not with reason, particularly in the upper tier of ornamented windows. Much curious work may be seen on its various sides, as well as some ancient statues: these are, the Virgin with the infant Christ; St. Wulsten, St. Oswald, and other religious worthies of the days of old. In this tower is the bell-room, which contains a set of eight, each with a different inscription: the last is

“ I sweetly touling, men do call

“ To taste on meat that feeds the soul.”

The whole of the interior is highly interesting, not only from the singularity as well as beauty of its architecture, but also from the numerous monuments erected to those who have performed the highest characters in life's busy drama. On entering through the beautiful north porch, the great nave and side aisles present a most elegant admixture of the Anglo-Norman and Gothic orders; the two western arches added by Bishop Giffard being of the former, whilst the remaining seven are of the latter; and the visitor will be

be struck with the beauty of the ornamented capitals of the pillars that support them, being sculptured with the nicest fillagree work, each differing from the other, though it is to be lamented that these have in some places been destroyed during the occupation of the edifice by the parliament army. The effect produced by the modern painted windows contrasted with the pure white of the walls, is also very striking; but with all their brilliancy of colouring, it is impossible not to regret the loss of the ancient

"Storied windows, richly dight."

To assist the visitor in his ramble through this venerable edifice, and to preclude the necessity of asking questions, which often are not answered, we shall now give a slight sketch of the principal

MONUMENTS,

in that order which will shew the whole to the best advantage.

Turning to the right, the first monument is a mural one in memory of the family of *Moore*, of this city: it has the figures of three men in ancient dresses, and three women in the same costume, on their knees, in the attitude of prayer, and who appear, by the inscription, to have been quite a family party, of father and mother, son and wife, brother and sister.

Crossing over to the south-west corner, close to the western window of the south aisle, is a modern monument of white marble, erected to the memory of *Richard Solly, Esq.* of a family in the north-west of this county, but then resident in London; and who died in the thirty-third year of his age, of an inflammatory disorder, whilst at Malvern on a tour of pleasure with his family. This is a handsome specimen of Mr. Bacon, jun. in the art of sculpture. It represents a sarcophagus, on which is inscribed,

"Absent from the body—but present with the Lord,"

on which leans an elegant female figure, his widow, seated with an infant on her knee, whilst beside her stands another, its little

hands joining with those of its brother, who kneels by his mother. The double expression of concern in the faces of these cherubs, of sorrow for a lost parent, and of feeling for her who remains, is well executed, and assimilates well with the speaking emblem of the drooping poppy, pathetically allusive to the departed. The female figure is exquisite; the whole contour, of a most luxuriant form, is displayed with all the delicacy of the Vestal.

We come next to the monument of *Judge Littleton*, who died in 1481; the learned father of the law, as he is frequently termed by the various English writers. He was appointed one of the judges of the Common Pleas by Edward IV. in 1464, and afterward created Knight of the Bath. Whilst on the bench, he published his "*Tenures*," a work pronounced by his commentator, Sir Edward Coke, to be the ornament of the common law, and the most perfect volume ever written on any human science. The tomb is quite plain; but there was once on it a small brass, with a representation of this venerable judge in his robes; and on the floor was an expressive sentiment, at his particular desire:

"Let no man slight his mortalitie;"

but these have all been defaced by the parliamentary Vandals.

Near this is the monument of *Sir Thomas Littleton*, representative for the county in five successive parliaments. He lived during the reigns of James I. and his unfortunate son; and his loyal attachment to the latter was so much depended on, that when the civil wars broke out, the military command of Worcestershire was entrusted to him. In consequence of this he was confined for several years in the Tower of London by Cromwell, having been taken prisoner at Bewdley; his estates also were sequestered, and himself fined 4000*l.* for what was called his delinquency. Near the door of the cloysters, the guide points out the tomb of *Friar Baskerville*, an ancient one under an arch in the wall. The statue is that of a priest vested for the service, with the tonsure; it is cumbent, and has a lion at the feet.

On the other side, the left of the door, is a handsome monument to the memory of *Dr. William Thomas*, bishop of this see.

In the range of pillars separating the south aisle from the nave, is a curious ancient tomb of *Robert Wylde, Esq.* and his lady. It is raised, and has their cumbent figures in the act of praying, and habited in long gowns. An armorial tablet hangs against the pillar at the head of the tomb, with a suitable inscription.

The next which claims attention is that of *Sir John Beauchamp* of Holt, who was Baron of Kidderminster, and is said* to have been the first peer created by *patent*. He distinguished himself in the Scottish wars; was constituted a justice of South Wales, and steward of the king's household; but he did not long enjoy the honour, for in the very same year he was attainted in parliament, with many others; and after confinement in Dover Castle, was beheaded on Tower-hill in the reign of Henry V. The tomb is an altar of rag-stone, and has on it the figures of himself and lady. His figure has a pointed helmet, with a corded facing, a gorget, and suit of polished armour, plated shoes, with large rowels to his spurs; on his surcoat, his arms; at his feet a greyhound; under his head a helmet, on which, for crest, a swan with extended wings issuing out of a crown. The lady has a loose mantle and dishevelled hair, a reticulated head-dress and fillet of roses, the hair plaited at the back of the head, the veil flowing back, a flowered surcoat, studded apron, buttoned slender sleeves, and the head resting on a swan supported by angels. In short, the whole is a complete specimen of the dress of former times; and is ornamented with the arms of the different branches of Beauchamp. Close to this we now turn to a hanging monument on a pillar, which is noticed on entrance; this is to the memory of *Mrs. Cecil Warmstry*, widow of *William Warmstry, Esq.* Her figure is about two feet long, in a cumbent posture, her head resting on her right hand, and wrapped in her widow's veil. This is an exquisite little specimen of the power of sculpture; and the artist has shewn great skill in the display of the various muscles

E 2

both

* Gough's Sepulchral Monuments, Vol. I. p. 191.

both of the face and body, expressive of the most piteous dejection, and exhibiting the emaciating effects of hopeless grief.

We now proceed to the great CROSS AISLE, and turning to the right come to a monument erected to the memory of *Mrs. Mary Hall*, "the truly regretted wife of William Hall, Esq. of the island of Jamaica, and of Bever near this city." She died in her 45th year, and is buried in the middle aisle of the "Lady's Chapel;" but the monument seems to have been placed here as in a conspicuous situation, and is highly deserving of the attention paid to it, being the production of a native and local artist, "William Stephens." It consists of a pyramid gracefully rising from a base, supported by brackets, and is ornamented with a figure of Religion, sitting in a reclining position, a book resting on her knee, and leaning against an elegantly formed urn. At the end of the south transept, close to the last monument, is a very neat one by Nollekins, with a most excellent bust of Bishop Johnson; a man whom his epitaph very justly describes as of polite and liberal education, possessing a temperate and agreeable disposition, full of piety and munificence, ardent in friendship, and of the most benevolent philanthropy.

Near this is a superb one to the memory of *Bishop Madox*, a most venerable prelate, not only remarkable for his extreme piety, but for being zealous in the support of all public charities, and also an accurate judge and encourager of individual merit. In a compartment at the base is a handsome bas relief of the parable of the good Samaritan, in allusion to the bishop's own character; but the most striking part of the monument is a figure of conjugal fidelity, of the size of life, leaning with a most melancholy expression upon an inverted torch, emblematic of widowhood: this is a most exquisite figure both in form and expression, and seems designed to represent his lady, who is stated in the inscription to have erected the memorial in honour of her much loved husband and dear children. It then describes her as amiable and exemplary in every part of her conduct, and as piously hopeful, through the merits of her Redeemer, of everlasting happiness: and to this

is added, that her remains are deposited in the same vault with him, having died in the 89th year of her age.

In the *North Transsept*, the first monument which strikes our view is that on the right hand, of *Dr. John Hough*, bishop of this see, and head of Magdalen College, Oxford; and which is justly considered the finest which this cathedral can boast of. This is a most superb piece of sculpture, exciting the greatest admiration from every beholder, and for ever stamping the fame of the artist, *Roubilliac*. It is rather surprising that the late Lord Orford, (*Morace Walpole*.) does not notice this as part of *Roubilliac's* works: *Dallaway*,* indeed, selects it as a most exquisite specimen, but unfortunately attributes it to *Rysbrack*, and classes it along with the bronze equestrian statue of William the third at Bristol, as his two superior works. Even in this error, however, he well describes its character, where he says, that the artist, in his principal figures, was generally happy in the choice of his attitudes, and eminently so in this prelate's. This worthy bishop died in 1745, at the advanced age of ninety-three, having enjoyed this dignity upwards of fifty-two years. The most remarkable incident of his life, which the sculptor has most happily expressed, happened during the time that the obstinate bigotry of James II. induced him to propose the most violent measures for the introduction of the Catholic faith into this country. In order to secure its establishment, he issued a peremptory mandate to the Fellows of Magdalen College in Oxford, requiring them to elect a popish priest of the name of Farmer, as their president; trusting that his success in this instance would lead to similar measures throughout the two universities. This nomination, however, was resisted by that conscientious society, who, upon the declared grounds of Farmer's ineligibility according to the statutes, proceeded to the election of *Dr. Hough* in his stead, a choice which was confirmed by the Visitor, but refused assent to by the Ecclesiastical Commissioner, who not only deprived *Hough* of the situation, but also suspended two of the fellows.

* *Dallaway* on the Arts, p. 400.

~~Worcester~~

A total disregard to this sentence took place on the part of those principally concerned, as they considered themselves legally justified in their conduct; whilst with the other members of the university it became a matter of great interest, and many partizans were ranged on both sides. The king, conscious of the illegality of his measure, and at the same time anxious to avoid the discussion of the question of Farmer's ineligibility, thought it best not to re-urge his election, but issued a fresh mandate on the ground of Hough's *non-election*, and recommended Parker, then bishop of that see. This, however, was of no avail, for the electors still adhering to their first choice, declared that the place was already filled by their nomination, and the Visitor's subsequent confirmation of Hough. His majesty now attempted what could be done by personal influence; and having gone down to the university, not only reprimanded the fellows, but threatened any further disobedience with "feeling the weight of his hand." To add energy to these threats, he sent for new Commissioners of Visitation, who entered the city, accompanied by three troops of horse; but Hough being blessed with a resolute mind, and supported by a virtuous consciousness, remained firm to the duty which had fallen to his lot, still continuing inflexible in his acceptance, and denying the existence of any power to annul his election. An accusation of contumacy was now brought forward against him by the king's proctor, and his name was struck out of the college books; for this he demanded redress in Westminster-hall; but the time-serving politics of some who were there shut the doors of justice against him, and in the mean time the doors of the lodge were broke open by order of that court, and the bishop installed by proxy. These events were of too much consequence to have been passed over by the people at large; but their interest was soon swallowed up in a question of much greater moment, the memorable bishop's petition. The general result of these contests is well known; it is sufficient to add, that, under a better order of things, Hough was actually elected bishop of Oxford in 1690; translated to Coventry in 1699, and to Worcester

cester in 1717. In this account we have been more diffuse, because the bas relief on the monument refers particularly to the most important occurrence in it. This elegant specimen of sculpture is now placed where the altar of the holy cross formerly stood. The spirited and pious prelate is represented on it, of the size of life,* habited in his robes, which are disposed in a bold, free, and graceful manner, and seated in an easy, dignified attitude, in a reclining position, on a sarcophagus of black marble, with yellow veins beautifully variegated over its surface; his right elbow is resting on some books, and his hands joined as if in the act of devotion. The countenance is highly expressive of quick sense and religious hope, meek, yet animated. Beneath stands the figure of Religion, her right hand holding an open bible, and her left supporting part of the bishop's drapery, which appears falling, and seems as if otherwise it would have shaded the bas relief on the sarcophagus, which represents the High Court of Commission at Oxford in 1687, appointed to remove Hough from the presidency of Magdalen, as before related. The gentle stooping of the figure of Religion, as if examining more minutely into the fact, is most happily imagined, and as well executed; her attitude is indeed possessed of great ease; and her aspect has all the sweetness and complacency which ever ought to mark her character, yet tempered at the same time with a deep concern, as though she felt for the removal of a tried and approved advocate. The bas relief too, though on a small scale, is highly deserving of notice; and the spectator may easily make out the story at a glance; for, as Mr. Green very elegantly delineates it, "the characters are well discriminated, expressive, and just; the figures critically understood, and as happily executed. The groupes bear out with a well regulated effect; and the perspective is so scientifically adjusted, as that all the objects of the composition approach or recede from the eye, and hold their proportions and places in the most orderly and correct manner possible; yet the principal figures in the groupe are only eight inches high:" the

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other

* Green's Worcester.

other embellishments speak for themselves; we need only mention, that the commissioners appear seated on a bench, and a secretary is recording the proceedings, whilst the intrepid Hough, at the head of the fellows, is uttering his protest against their illegal acts. In the same transept, and a little to the left, is a neat marble memorial of the late dean, the Honourable and Reverend *Dr. St. Andrew St. John*; and the monument opposite to that of the bishop, is in honour of *Sir Thomas Street, Knt*, who, as one of the judges displaced by King James II. is justly entitled to the various ornaments, such as the insignia of justice, the cap of liberty, &c.

We now enter the

CHOIR,

than which nothing can be imagined more august, and yet simple, in its present re-edified state of ornament, in which the best effect is produced by its clustered pillars, the exquisite open-worked mouldings of its pointed arches, and its general arrangement. The *stalls* in the choir, which are in the best state of repair, are of Irish oak, as old as 1397; the carvings are well done, and the turn-up seats are, as usual in old cathedrals, ornamented on the reverse with ludicrous, satirical representations, emblematical of the mendicant orders of friars, between whom, and the lazy inmates of the cloyster, there was perpetual war. If these are not always decent, their general whimsical effect must plead their excuse. The effect of the *east window* over the altar is very fine; and the *octagonal pulpit* deserves attention; of this the front and sides are of stone, and the back of curious wooden oak, and the whole is curiously carved with emblems of the past and present dispensations, a representation of the New Jerusalem, the evangelic hieroglyphics, &c.

The *altar-piece* is a simple screen, constructed of oak, but rather inappropriately ornamented with Corinthian pillars; the centre has a painting of the "Descent from the Cross."* Opposite to the pulpit is the *Bishop's Throne*, which is a specimen of very

* This was presented by Valentine Green, Esq. F. A. S. in 1792.

very antique workmanship, with the olive branch, as an emblem of peace, and some other symbols, such as the mitre, &c. designative of the episcopal functions. The organ, which stands over the western entrance, is possessed of a very fine tone, and is supposed to excel all others in the kingdom, in the trumpet stop: its stops are nine in number; it has been lately repaired by donations from the nobility and gentry in the vicinity, at an expense of 300*l*.

It is, however, to be lamented, that such a profusion of gilding has taken place; and it would have been well if the screen, or parapet, of the organ-loft had been replaced with one more accordant with the general style of architecture.

It is requisite here to point out to those who visit this cathedral as antiquaries, that it is necessary they should recollect, that it affords various instances of the removal of monuments to make way for others: those of * Bishop Giffard, and the Countess of Surry, having given way for that of Prince Arthur; whilst that of Bishop de Constantiis had been previously removed by Bishop Giffard, who was himself buried on the opposite side of the altar to that which, by his will, he desired, and where he had erected his own monument; which the monks removed, placing it with his remains on the south side of the altar, and probably on the spot where that of de Constantiis had originally stood.

The attention of the spectator, in passing up to the altar, is arrested by an altar-tomb in the centre, and near to the east end †. This is the TOMB OF KING JOHN, the most ancient one that is existing, in England at least, of all the ancestors of the present Royal family, since the time of the Conquest. His effigy lies on the tomb, crowned; on which was written, but now almost illegible, "*Johannes Rex Angliæ*." In his right hand is a sceptre; in his left a sword, whose point is received in the mouth of a lion couchant at his feet. The figure is as large as life; and on each side,

* Gough's Sepulchral Monuments, Vol. II.

† Green's Survey of Worcester.

side, on a level with the pavement, are two sepulchral images of a smaller size, of the Bishops S. Oswald, and S. Wolstan, between whom he had desired to be laid, in order to secure the absence of evil spirits.

With respect to the monarch himself, history records, that he died the 19th of October, 1216, in the fifty-first year of his age, and eighteenth of his very troublesome reign. From the annals of Walter of Coventry, * it appears that he died of a dysentery, at Newark upon Trent, and that his body was carried to Worcester, but his bowels buried at Croxton, in the house of the Præmonstratensian order.

It had for many years been supposed, that this was merely a cenotaph, and that the body lay in the Lady's Chapel, in consequence of which, during the late arrangements, the dean and chapter had intended to remove it to that spot; but being anxious to ascertain the fact, an investigation took place on Monday the 17th of July, 1797. Mr. Green, who gives a very accurate and interesting account of this procedure †, says, that they commenced their research by first removing the effigy, and the stone-slab on which it rested; by which means the interior of the monument was laid open, and they discovered two brick partition walls, raised evidently to assist in supporting the superincumbent covering. The spaces between these walls, and the ends of the tomb, were filled with rubbish; but upon removing the end, and one of the pannels at each side, when the rubbish had been cleared away, they found two strong elm boards, originally joined by a batten nailed to each end, and which having dropped off, had now left the boards loose. Under these boards lay a stone coffin, containing the Royal corpse, which was observed to have been laid in the coffin, exactly as the figure upon the tomb represented. The skull, instead of being placed as usual, had the *foramen magnum* turned upwards; the interior part of the *os frontis* was much decayed; the head in fact was

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* Leland's Collectanea, Vol. III. p. 323.

† Green's Survey of Worcester.

so much damaged, that the *ossa maxillaria superiora*, or upper jaws, were completely detached from the head, and laying near the elbow of the right arm, and yet retained four of the teeth in sound condition; the lower jaw bones had also been displaced, but these had no teeth remaining; and some grey hairs were still visible on the top of the head, or, more technically speaking with respect to their local situation, on the upper part of the *cranium*, in the vicinity of the sagittal suture. The *ulna* of the left arm, which had been folded across the body, was found lying on the breast; the *ulna* of the right arm was nearly in its proper position; but neither of the *radii*, nor any of the bones of the hand, could be found: the *ossa femorum*, *tibiae*, *fibulae*, or thigh and leg bones, and others of the inferior extremities, were very perfect, and upon some of the bones of the toes, belonging to the right foot, were even found vestiges of the nails. Some large pieces of mortar were found on and below the abdomen, from which there could be no doubt of the body having been removed from the original place of its interment. The dress of the corpse, seems exactly to have corresponded with that of the monumental figure, excepting the gloves on its hands, and the crown on its head, which on the skull in the coffin was found to have been superseded by the celebrated monk's cowl, in which, as a passport through the regions of purgatory, he is stated to have been buried. This once sacred envelope appeared to have fitted the head very exactly, and had evidently been tied, or buckled, under the chin by straps, as part of them remained. The body had been covered with a robe reaching from the neck nearly to the feet, and some of its embroidery was still visible near its right knee; it appeared to have been made of strong crimson damask, but the injuries of time rendered it difficult to ascertain this exactly; the cuff to the left hand remained; fragments of the sword, and of its scabbard which had been placed in the left hand, still were in existence, and the scabbard was more perfect than the sword. On the legs there had been an ornamental

covering, tied on the ancles, and extending over the feet, where the toes were visible through its decayed parts. The coffin is of that stone found at Higley, in this county, and totally different from that of which the tomb is constructed; a very considerable fracture runs obliquely through it; the coffin is laid upon the pavement of the choir, without being let into it; and its original covering was the stone upon which the effigy is cut, as that exactly corresponds with it in figure and dimensions. It is to be regretted, that correct drawings of the whole interior were not taken; but the confusion occasioned by the crowds, who impatiently came to see the unexpectedly-discovered remains, rendered it necessary to shut up the object of their curiosity; which was therefore done on the next day, and the tomb restored to its original condition.

On ascending the steps of the altar, the stranger is shewn the stone covering the body of the gallant WILLIAM, DUKE OF HAMILTON, who fell at the battle of Worcester, between the Parliamentary army and Royalists, in 1651. About the middle of the action he received a slug shot in the leg, by which the bone was so much shattered, as to oblige him to be brought into the city, where he was of course taken prisoner; but being lodged at the commandery, and Cromwell, with a due humanity, having sent his own surgeon, Trappam, to him, the duke was so much encouraged by his assurance that he was not in any danger, that he paid no attention to the representations of Sir Robert Cunningham, the king's physician, who was found among the prisoners, and who was of opinion that the loss of blood, and the constant drain which must ensue from the wound, would be fatal to him, unless he submitted to amputation. This confidence, however, was so injudicious, that he soon found his strength decay, and closed an early career, in the thirty-first year of his age; sensible, when too late, of his danger, he sent his last thoughts to the duchess, written by his own hand, a short time before he expired.

We

We now return to the right to the CHAPEL OF PRINCE ARTHUR, the general design of which is * the history of the union of the two contending parties, that under the distinct banners of a white and red rose, had recently deluged the nation with a waste of kindred blood. This chapel is surrounded on all sides, except the east, with highly ornamented open work, in the fashion of the Gothic screens, and contains the tomb of this amiable young prince, who was elder brother of the ferocious Henry. It may now be justly reckoned as the most curious and elaborate part of the cathedral, particularly since it has been cleaned and repaired, and those ornaments exposed to view, which were formerly covered, and indeed completely hidden, by repeated coats of white-wash. The top terminates in an arched roof, with open-work battlements and pyramids; the inside of the roof is fretted very curiously with the prince's arms in the centre; and there are various coats of the Royal arms at each end. In the centre, is the tomb of white marble, with an inscription in the *black letter*:

" Here lyeth buried Prince Arthur the first begotten
 Sonne of the Right Renowned King Henry the Seventh
 Which noble Prince departed out of this transitory
 Life att the Castle of Ludlow the seaventeenthe
 Yeere of his father's raygne and in the yeere of
 Our Lord God on thousand five hundred and two."

The ornaments of the outside deserve particular notice; on the north are several statues of saints, and escutcheons supported by angels; the south side, being of a greater altitude, has several pillars with five ranges of images of virgins, bishops, kings, confessors, &c. There are also a representation of our Saviour crowned; and the arms of England as then borne, with the quarterings of De Burgh for the Earldom of Ulster, and of Mortimer, Earl of March: the supporters being then a greyhound collared, and a lion gardant. Here are also many symbols of the contending parties; a Rose in the Sunbeams for the House of

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* Green's Survey.

York; a Fesse of Phoons, or arrows, within a band, indicative of mutual concordance; a falcon displayed within an open fetterlock flourished with roses, which was a device of the Dukes of York; also one rose including another, alluding to the union of York and Lancaster: all these accompanied by the plume of ostrich feathers, the portcullis of Beaufort, Fleurs de Lis of France, Pomegranate of Spain, &c.

The particulars of the death of this young prince being highly descriptive of the manners of those times, we shall make some extracts from an ancient MS. preserved by Leland.* It is there recorded "that immediately after his death, Sir Richard Poole his chamberlaine, with others of his counsell, wrote and sent letters to the king and counsell to Greenwich, where *his* Grace and the *queene's* laye, and certified them of the prince's departure. The which councelle discreetly sent for the king's ghostly father, a fryer observant, to whom they showed this most sorrowfull and heaveye tydings, and desired him in his best manner to shewe it to the kinge. He in the morninge of the Twesdaie following, somewhat before the tyme accustomed, knocked at the king's chamber dore; and when the kinge understood it was his confessor, he commanded to lett him in. The confessor then commanded all those there present to avoide, and after due salutation began to saie, *si bona de manu Dei suscepimus, mala autem quare non sustineamus?* and so shewed his grace that his dearest sonne was departed to God. When his grace understood that sorrowfull heavy tidings, he sent for his queene, saying, that he and his queene would take the painefulle sorrowes together, and after that she was come and sawe the king her lord, and that naturall and painfull sorowe, as I have heard saie, she with fulle great and comfortable wordes besought his grace, that he would first after God remember the weale of his owne noble person, the comfort of his realme, and of her. She then saied, that my ladye his mother, had no more children but him onely, and that God by his grace had ever preserved him, and brought him where he was.

Over

* Leland's Collectanea, Vol V. p. 373.

Over that, how that God had left him yet a fayre prince, two fayre princesses; and that God is where he was, and we are both young ynoughe: and that the prudence and wisdom of his grace spronge over all Christendome, so that it should please him to take this accordingly thereunto. Then the kinge thanked her of her good comfort. After that she was departed and come to her own chamber, naturall and motherly remembrance of that great losse, smote her so sorrowfull to the hart, that those that were about her, were faine to send for the kinge to comfort her. Then his grace of true gentle and faithful love, in good hast came and relieved her, and shewed her howe wise counselle she had given him before; and he, for his parte, would thanke God for his sonne, and would she should doe in like wise." This is followed by an account of the embalming the corpse, and its laying in state, together with the procession of the funeral.—"From Beaudley Sir Richard Croft, and Sir William Overall, steward and comptroller of the prince's house, rode before to *Worcester*, and suffered no man to enter the gate of that cittie till the tyme the corpse was come"—"the order of Fryers censed the corpse at the towne's end, and then proceeded to the gate of that citie: at which gate were the bayliffs, and the honest men of that citie on foote. Alonge in a rowe on everye side, were the vicar generall, or chauncelor of the bishopp of that see, with a good number of secular canons, &c."—the service which was performed by the bishop, abbots, and other dignitaries of the see, being over, "a minister of the church tooke awaye the palles: and then gentlemen tooke up the corpse and bare it to the grave; then the corpse, with weeping and sore lamentation was laid in the grave; the orisons were said by the Bishop of Lincolne, also sore weeping, &c."—"all things thus finished, there was ordeyned a great dinner; and in the morne a proclamation was made openly in that cittie, that if any man could shewe any victuals unpaid in that countrey, that had beene taken by any of that noble prince's servants before that daye, they should come and shewe it to the late steward, comptroller, and cofferer, and they should be contented."

On

On the opposite side of the altar is a curiously situated monument of BISHOP BULLINGHAM, being divided in two by the wall of the choir. The effigy of the bishop lies on the tomb, in the act of prayer, and the head resting on a book.

A door in the south screen now leads us into the wings, and opposite to us is the dean's chapel, in which are two ancient tombs; the one in the centre, is that of SIR GRYFFITH RICE and his lady, but the brasses which were inlaid on the top have been taken away; the ancient tomb close to the south wall, contains the body of a crusader, SIR ROBERT HARCOURT, whose effigy lies on it, in the armour and attitude of a knight of the cross.

Returning into that southern wing, or aisle, we notice, under an arch, a very fine monument of DEAN EEDES; the figure lies under a canopy, supported by four Corinthian pillars; and, as usual, is in the act of prayer, the head resting on a double pillow.

Entering the LADY'S chapel, we see on the right two tombs, supposed to be those of ST. OSWALD and ST. WULSTAN, whose sepulchral images are also in the choir, on each side of King John's tomb. It was this supposition evidently, which led antiquaries to imagine that the monarch was buried in the Lady's chapel; the discovery of his real place of sepulture may, however, excite some doubts as to the correctness of that idea respecting these tombs. Without presuming to form any conjecture on the subject, or supposing that the body might first have been laid in the chapel, and afterwards removed, it is only necessary to say, that they are represented as vested for the altar and mitred, their right hands being lifted up in the act of benediction, and the *baculus* or staff in their left. That these are *baculi*, and not *crosciers*, is asserted by Gough in his Sepulchral Monuments; but it must be admitted that both Dr. Thomas, and Mr. Green, are of a different opinion. Opposite to Dean Eedes's tomb is that of BISHOP THORNBOROUGH, which was erected in 1627, fourteen years before the good bishop occupied this his last tenement. Those who wish to know what a man may say of himself in his own epitaph, may here gratify their curiosity, by reading the various inscriptions

on the superincumbent arch. The figure on the tomb in episcopal robes, is a good one, and in the customary attitude of prayer. At the east end is the CONSISTORY COURT; but turning into the north aisle of the Lady's chapel, we see on the right an exquisite specimen of monumental sculpture, formed of various coloured marble, and ornamented with an oval tablet, having a bust in profile of the amiable and elegant MRS. M. RAE, who died in the bloom of life, in 1770. Next to this is the tomb of SIR JAMES BEAUCHAMP, as it is supposed from the arms of Beauchamp formerly in the window; he is in the costume of the time of the crusades, and from having his legs crossed, had evidently taken the vows for the Holy Land: this costume is a complete mail; he has a round helmet and surcoat; on his left arm a shield, whilst his right hand holds his half *drawn* sword, or perhaps half *sheathed*, by the position of the hand.

We must not omit here four monuments at the back of the screen of the high altar, and in the Lady's chapel; these are of the BISHOPS, GAUDEN, STILLINGFLEET, FLEETWOOD, and BLANDFORD.

Coming towards the BISHOP'S CHAPEL in the north aisle, the visitor sees on his left, under an arch in the wall of the choir, an episcopal tomb, supposed to be that of WALTER DE CANTILUPE, but it is too much defaced to make out any thing with certainty, except the general plan of the vestments, &c. Close by it, is one in better preservation; the figure is vested and mitred according to his degree, and in the act of giving benediction; the angels, as usual, are at his head, and the lion at his feet; this is the tomb of JOHN DE CONSTANTIN, a bishop of this see.

Turning short to the right is the bishop's chapel, and a tomb against its north wall, of BISHOP PARRY, the figure on which needs no explanation; but the visitor ought not to pass slightly over the two figures of Time and Death, which are above the canopy.

Before we quit this part of the cathedral, we must remind the reader that he will be shewn a tomb, about which there have been

some doubts; Habington, in his MS. seems uncertain whether it was of a bishop or prior; but Gough* considers it as that of JOHN OF EVESHAM about 1370, and indeed Dr. Thomas records, that the window over it once contained a painting of a prior, with two mitres, one on his head, and the other in his hand, with an inscription "Johannes Evesham prior privilegium de mitra"—which accounts for the figure on the tomb being mitred, and pontifically habited, though only a prior. There is another tomb, formerly shewn as that of the Countess of Salisbury, of *garter memory* according to the legend, in the reign of Edward III. To clear up all doubts, however, we shall insert what Mr. Green says on the subject, as that is conclusive: "the real fact is, that this figure represents ANDELA, daughter, and sole heiress of GRIFFIN DE ALBO MONASTERIO, or Blanchminster, Lord of Ichtefeld, Salop, wife of John, son of Griffin de Warrenne, natural son of William, sixth Earl of Surry;" which is further confirmed by Watson, the historian of that family.† The opinion respecting her being the Countess of Salisbury, must have taken its rise from a rose within a garter near it, but which, however, actually belongs to the ornaments of Prince Arthur's chapel. Though the ancient legend is now set aside, yet the tomb is not the less curious, as affording a specimen of the dress of old times; it is indeed at present rather defaced; but about a century ago, as described by Dr. Thomas, she had on her head a veil, [on her chin a wimplet, or deep muffler, which he conjectures to be a mark of honour, or of rank, in her hands lifted up to heaven a string of beads or rosary, and different armorial escutcheons, allusive to her descent and connections, on her under garment.

There is another monument, which having accidentally escaped the research of the editor, beyond a transient glance, until too late to rectify his oversight, shall be described on the authority of Mr. Green. "Under the second window of the north aisle, on the floor, lies a stone coffin of a lady, removed hither from the Chapel.

* Gough's Sepulchral Monuments, Vol. I. p. 126.

† Watson's History of the Warrennes, Earls of Surry.

Charnel-house chapel, where it had been placed. Her figure is lying thereon of a more than ordinary size: on her head is a coronet or wreath, on her chin she has a wimplet; her right hand laying on her breast is bare, her left has a glove, and in this she holds the other, laid across her body, which form, according to the ritual of marriage, signifies a maiden designed for the nuptial state."

In the year 1752, the workmen employed in repairing the cathedral, on taking off the top of a tomb, the inscription on which was obliterated except the date 1296, found the bones firm, and most of them adhering together in the same posture as when interred; and about the skull and shoulders appeared something like a coarse sacking, or sail-cloth, very fresh. This is the account as given in the Gentleman's Magazine for that year; but as the figures 1216, the year in which King John died, might be readily mistaken by the illiterate workmen for 1296, and as the description of the state of the body, and of the skull, much resembles that of the monarch, it certainly affords room for conjecture that it might be the same tomb, which would account for the disturbed state of the Skeleton.

Before we close this part of the cathedral, it is impossible not to notice the very praise-worthy manner in which the Sunday service is performed in the choir; not as a task to be run over, as it is too often seen, but with a decorum worthy of the place, and accompanied with a suitable sermon. For here there is not a choir with a few stalls which forbid entrance to all but those who chuse to pay; but there are many pews below, as well as galleries, which are always well filled; whilst with a due regard to the accommodation of the humblest worshippers of their Maker, there are comfortable seats arranged in the centre, which always contain a respectable and attentive auditory.

Under the choir is a very extensive vault, which extends also under the side aisles, supported by several rows of fine stone pillars; the whole is eleven feet high, and sixty long. We next enter the

CLOYSTERS,

which are 125 feet by 120, and 16 feet in width. The vaulted roof is adorned with a variety of sculptures. In the north side, on the Keystone of the centre arch, there is, in good preservation, a well-wrought figure of the Virgin, with the infant Christ in her lap, but the heads of both are gone; most probably demolished by the reforming parliamentary army, who made it a rule to decapitate all saints, and whose ravages may also be traced in the body of the cathedral. In the southern cloyster is a royal genealogy of Judah and Israel on the keystones of the arches, beginning with Jesse, to whom succeeds David playing on his harp, &c.: these, together with the Bishops and other heads supporting the spandrels, deserve attention.

In the south-west corner, may be seen the ancient LAVATORY, or cistern for washing, being a small reservoir of water, placed near the door of the refectory, in which the monks were obliged to wash their hands when going in and coming out from their meals. It resembles a manger, and was supplied by a spring from Hilnwick, near St. John's; the pipes leading along the bridge, but now destroyed.

The REFECTORY is in the south cloyster, now known by the name of the COLLEGE HALL. This is a very spacious and lofty apartment; and here is always held the triennial meeting of the three choirs of Worcester, Hereford, and Gloucester. This has also been appropriated to the use of the KING'S SCHOOL, founded by Henry VIII. for forty scholars.* On the eastern side of the cloyster, is an ancient passage of Saxon workmanship leading to the DEANERY, an ancient building, but, unfortunately for the antiquary, so modernized and enlarged by its various occupants that little is left to gratify curiosity.

Close to this is the entrance to the CHAPTER HOUSE, which is of a circular, or rather decagonal form, in diameter fifty-eight feet and forty-five in height, with its curious roof supported by a
single

* This is conducted on a liberal plan, affording a regular preparation for the university, as well as instructions in music, drawing, and in the modern languages; nor are the lighter fashionable accomplishments neglected.

single pillar. This being not only the COUNCIL CHAMBER, but also the LIBRARY, is now, though without destroying its Gothic effect, a warm comfortable room, ornamented with a copy of Rubens's famous Antwerp picture, the "Descent from the Cross," and several portraits. The collection of printed books has been much augmented of late years by the liberal attention of successive deans, and the benefactions and legacies of private individuals. On a cursory view it appears to contain a good selection of Church History, and of topography, besides divinity, &c. and the judicious arrangement, which is evident at a glance, is a proof that good use may be made of it, by those engaged in research. Here are also several MSS. the property of the ancient monastery; also a curious book printed by Nicholas de Frampton, as early as 1478.

Of all the public offices of the monastery, there now remains but one, the AUDIT HALL,* anciently called the "Guest Hall," a name allusive to its general purposes of hospitality. It was built in 1320; by Wulstan de Braunsford, at that time prior of the monastery, and afterwards bishop of the see; and was intended exclusively for the reception of strangers, as the rules of the order forbade their being entertained at the same table with the monks in the refectory. A monthly court, called "Güestenhall Court," was also held here by the monastery, for the purpose of determining small differences among their tenantry; for it was an ancient custom, in practice too as late as the reign of Charles I. that the tenantry of the church lands should not sue each other, in actions for less than forty shillings, in any court but this. Though that legal procedure is done away, yet the original design of the building, in respect to jovial hospitality, is still preserved, "and the noble entertainments furnished here at the annual *audits*, do honour to one of the most eminent caputular bodies, established by one of the greatest of our kings."

Returning through the cathedral, we come back to the COLLEGE YARD, or church-yard, an open airy place. Dr. Thomas, in his Survey, tells us, that there was formerly a stone cross in this church-yard, which was the usual preaching place, as at

* Green's Survey of Worcester.

St. Paul's London. There were also seats for the chief persons of the city on the north side of the church; but those seats, together with the sacrist's lodgings, were turned into a house for the first prebendary. The cross itself was demolished in the time of the civil wars, and the place of preaching being then removed to the end of the nave, the principal citizens sat on the stone bench under the west window, a blue arras cloth being spread upon it, whilst the bishop, dean, and prebendaries, had chairs and a stone bench covered in the same manner. Near to the place where the cross stood in the church-yard, there was in ancient times a much praised monumental building of white stone, over the graves of *Duke Wiferd*, and his lady, *Alta*; but all traces of it have long been lost.

The COLLEGE GREEN on the south side of the cathedral, is an open airy place, surrounded by the church, and some ranges of good houses; but the principal object of attention is,

EDGAR'S TOWER,

a building of great antiquity, and still in high preservation. It has on its front, statues of King Edgar and his queens; * on the opposite side there is a remarkable bust, prominent from the building, and not inelegantly finished. It represents a monk leaning forward, in a position almost horizontal, supporting himself by his left hand, and holding in his right, which is drawn in towards his breast, something of an oval shape, which Mr. Green says, "whether a Chrismatory, or other *vasculum*, or any kind of fruit, I leave to the curious in the minutiae of antiquity to determine." There is also on the west front, in a niche over the gate-way, a very well executed bust of King George the Second, erected at the expense of the dean and chapter. This tower was the principal entrance to the castle, but when the church encroached upon its grounds, it seems to have become part of the ecclesiastical premises, and is now in part occupied by the *Registrar's Office*.

The numeral inscription on this tower, once supposed to be *Arabic*, and therefore proving the introduction of that *mode of notation*

* Green's Survey of Worcester.



Designed by W. Smith. From a Drawing by J. Smith after a Sketch by T. Smith.

Printed by J. Smith at the Sign of the Sun.

EDGAR'S TOWER,
Worcester.

London: Published by J. Smith, at the Sign of the Sun, in the Strand.



notation at an earlier period than had generally been imagined *, is now altered beyond the reach of discussion. It was on the east side, upon a tablet over the arch, and in the Gothic or *Saxon* character. According to Dr. Wallis, our present numerals were not adopted before the year 1130; and Dr. Ward, of Gresham College, in some remarks on this date read before the Royal Society, † is of opinion that the supposed date, 975, cannot be the true reading. Grose, in his antiquities, seems to have collected much of the evidence respecting it; and observes, that another objection to its remote antiquity is urged from the style of the construction of the tower itself, by Dr. Littleton, then Dean of Exeter, in a dissertation read before the Antiquarian Society, in 1757, and printed in the first volume of the "*Archæologia*." "The Gothic style of the arch would alone have proved that the date could not have been so old as 975, as Dr. Ward by other convincing arguments made appear; for the Saxon style of building, which continued with very little alteration till about King Stephen's time, was widely different from the Gothic." In one of Habington's MSS. it is said, "King John, a great benefactor to the church of Worcester, did by all likelihood, build the stately gate-house of this court, which served for the priory, and now the college; in the front whereof, under the statues of our blessed Saviour, crowning his blessed mother, is a king armed, with his legs crossed, which may represent King John, who, in 1215, in St. Paul's church-yard, London, took on him the sign of the cross for the Holy Voyage; or King Richard I. whose lion's heart so conquered the infidels;" but these conjectures seem unlikely in Mr. Grose's opinion; yet the statues may be of a later date than those they were designed to represent, and so still be Edgar and his two wives, Etheldred and Ethelfrida. But Gough, in his "*Sepulchral Monuments*," seems to come nearest the truth, and to unravel this seeming mystery; for he supposes the date to have been in the *Saxon Letters* badly carved, and to have been *975*, for 1500; and this opinion he supports by a simple

F 4

fact

* Gough's *Sepulchral Monuments*, Vol. II. CCLXII. and CCLXVI.

† *Phil. Trans.* Vol. X. No. 439.

fact, that at Lechcot Matravers, in Dorsethire, *I. U. A.* is carved for the date 1505: he further asserts, that the oldest *Arabic* date he has ever seen, is on a monumental brass of Ellen Cook, at Ware, in 1454. This indeed seems to set the matter at rest, particularly as the original tablet can no longer be referred to; we therefore proceed to the

BISHOP'S PALACE,

which stands near the cathedral, in a most commanding situation, on the bank of the Severn, which flows at the bottom of the garden. Modern improvements, however, have made considerable alterations in its appearance. Originally it was surrounded with embattled walls, by Bishop Giffard; but its present modern front is the work of Bishop Stillingfleet. This eastern front is of plain white stone, without any extraneous ornaments; but the western side still retains much of the ancient style, very incongruously mixed with modern additions; so that whatever may be the beauty of its site, in overlooking the river and surrounding country, though, with a modern description, we may allow the motley-ness of its appearance, we cannot agree that it is "not a disagreeable admixture of modern repairs with the ancient Gothic." Yet upon the whole, the structure is commodious, and the different parts of the ancient building, in the interior, have been arranged so as to unite comfort with elegance. The most modern renovation took place in 1788, when it was prepared for the reception of his present majesty, who, together with the queen and several branches of the family, made it their residence during their visit to this city. A late writer seems to have viewed this building with a most enthusiastic eye; and he declares with energetic warmth, that its arched vaults, its noble and spacious kitchen, and the chapel originally over it, the essays of various improvements, and useful modern additions, clinging round and supporting the venerable remains of the ancient mansion, to which the Bishops, Sandys, Hough, and Johnson, have liberally contributed, and to which the present prelate has given the finish, evince that neither the munificent intention of its founders has escaped the observance of their successors; nor its ancient hos-

pitality lost any thing of its value, or its dignity in the present times!

With its hospitality, indeed, his majesty seems to have been highly pleased, and he has done this episcopal residence the honour of presenting two very elegant whole lengths of himself and consort; the one in the Windsor Uniform of blue and gold, the latter in lilac fringed with gold, and which occupy a distinguished place in the drawing-room, with a white marble tablet between them, on which is the following inscription, in letters of gold:

" Hospes
Imagines, quas contemplaris,
Augustorum Principum
Georgii III. et Charlottæ Conjugis,
Rex ipse
Richardo Episcopo Wigorniensis,
Donavit,
MDCCXC."

The gardens have nothing to boast of beyond neatness, and a fine prospect on the river, &c.

It will not be irrelevant here to present a short sketch of the

ECCLESIASTICAL AND EPISCOPAL HISTORY

of this cathedral: * it is not necessary, however, to enter on a dissertation respecting the introduction of Christianity into the island;

* Those who wish to investigate this part of our subject more minutely, will find much novel matter, not only in the long list of books, and MSS. referred to in *Tanner's Monasticon*, but also in the *British Museum*, from which latter collection, for the purpose of readier reference, we have selected the following as the most important:

In the *Cottonian Library* are,

CAL. A. X. 60. *Chronicon Wigornense*, from the first year of Incarnation to 1308; containing many particulars of the bishops, antiquities, and state of that church. Also in page 204, a list in verse, of the founder and benefactors.

island; it is sufficient to premise, that although very early planted here, as some say by St. Paul himself, it was entirely overturned on the coming of the Saxons. *Gildas*, whose authority is considered as good, tells us that all the cities and churches were then burnt to the ground, the inhabitants killed by the sword, or burned in the ruins of houses, and altars defiled with the blood of the slain; in which horrible devastation the rulers of the church and the priests suffered, together with the common people. The happy conversion, however, of those lawless ruffians restored Christianity in some measure to its pristine purity, and *St. Augustin*, who began that good work, endeavoured to found a form of episcopal government on what little law and regularity was then in existence; but the new Christians refusing all allegiance to the See of Rome, asserted, that they owed obedience to none but their own archbishop. The See of Litchfield was one of those, at that time erected, and eighty-two years afterwards, this of Worcester was taken out of that original bishopric.

With respect to the diocese itself, Dr. Nash states it, on such authority as he considered conclusive, to have been founded at the

TIB. A. XIII. A Register of Ancient Charters, some in Latin, some in Saxon, of Saxon kings on the Mercian Throne, by which lands, possessions, privileges, and immunities, are given to the monastery. The same volume also contains the names of the bishops, with the lands which they granted to the monks serving God and St. Mary; that is from *Searulph*, who is here called the first bishop, to Simon, bishop in 1125.

VESP. A. V. 147. Donation of certain lands to the cathedral, by *Æthelred*, the alderman, and *Æthelfled* his wife; also a grant, p. 150, of Ten "Cassatorum," in Tredington to that church, by *Eanberth*, King, or Chief of the *Wiccii*.

VIT. C. IX. 198. Short annals from the beginning of the world, but principally of the Bishops of Worcester.

VIT. C. IX. 126. Charters of *Offa*, *Ethelbald*, and other kings, also of bishops, of liberties and privileges to this church. Also some interesting documents in the Catalogue of the King's Library, marked "*Wigorn. Episcopatus.*" 7. F. XIV. 28.

the request of *Oshere*, a Prince of the Wiccii, by Ethelred, King of Mercia, about 680; *Tatfrith* being appointed the first bishop; before which time, one bishop presided over all Mercia. This agrees with Habingdon's Survey, where he says that *Tatfrith* was indeed named the first bishop by King Ethelred, but sudden death having put a stop to his consecration, the dignity was then conferred on *Boselus* *; but others have differed much in opinion upon this head.

The diocese itself was formerly of much greater extent than at present; as Gloucestershire, which belonged to it, was erected into a bishopric, in 1541; and in 1542, the king appointed a Bishop of Bristol, part of which diocese had also belonged to it. At present it contains all Worcestershire, (except fifteen parishes and eight chapelries which belong to Hereford) about one-third of Warwickshire, together with the parishes of Brome and Clent, in Staffordshire, and of Halesowen, in Shropshire; consisting, in the whole, of 116 rectories, 79 vicarages, 26 curacies, and 41 chapels, all subdivided into 9 deaneries. It was formerly estimated at 1049l. 16s. 3½d. which, in 1699, was fixed at 1302l. 15s. 4½d.; but the income is now supposed to exceed 3000l. per annum. If not very rich in worldly wealth, it may boast of possessing one pope, four saints, seven Lord High Treasurers, eleven Archbishops, besides Chancellors, Lord Presidents, &c. &c. &c.

According to the received accounts,

1. *BOSELUS*, was the first bishop, a learned man, from the monastery

* Leland, Vol. I. 51, says *Saxwulph*, Bishop of Mercia, was the first institutor, in 680; and in a MS. in the Cottonian Library. TIB. A. XIII. he is called the first bishop, which, including *Tatfrith*, would add two to the number of bishops generally received. The Harleian collection contains a MS. No. 229, which states the first bishops to have been, *Boselus*, *Hopsonus*, *Sanctus Egidius*, who founded *Eyesham*; *Wilfridus*, *Milfredus*, *Weymundus*, *Thibetius*, *Æthelwaldus*, *Danabertus*, *Theobatus*, *Albinus*, *Wenfredus*, *Albert*, *Wyfortus*, *Kinebaldus*, *St. Wolstan*, &c. which differs very usual list.

mastery of St. Hilda, near Whitby, in Yorkshire. He held the dignity eleven years; but being taken with such extreme infirmity of body, "that he could no longer execute his office, he freely abdicated the same in 691, and, at his own desire, was succeeded by Ostforus."

2. OSTFORUS, a man of singular merit, and more than ordinary learning, having gone to Rome to complete his studies, which at that time was considered as a proof of great piety and industry; and such was the happy choice of his predecessor, that he alone was considered by all, as worthy of filling his chair. He enjoyed the see only one year; but is supposed to have been the author of many books, which were destroyed during the devastations of the Danes.

3. ST. EGWIN, 693, bore a most excellent character for piety and zeal. He was a father to the fatherless, a reliever of widows, a comforter of the oppressed; in a word, one dear to God and man; and to the king very acceptable, on account of his prudence, equity, learning, counsel, and probity. He was the founder of the abbey at Evesham, under which head some curious particulars will be detailed.

4. WILFRID, 717, was chosen coadjutor to his predecessor, on his retiring to Evesham. He presided at a synod, the reasons for holding which, were the dissoluteness of the king and people, and in the letter from the pope, they were, among other things, desired to prohibit the frequent pilgrimages of the English ladies to Rome, as most of them got spoiled on the way*!

5. MILRED, 744, was a man of great learning, a profound divine, and an eminent preacher. He had the merit of presiding at a synod which asserted, "that Divine Justice could not be satisfied with the good works of others," or, in other words, denied the Papal Doctrine of Supererogation; and it is said, that this was called for by a rich man's declaring that he had made such expiation of his sins, by having paid others for fasting and singing psalms,

* To this was added an assertion, which is too ungallant and too exaggerated to insert here. Vide Thomas's Survey, p. 14. part II.

psalms, that if he was to live 300 years longer, he would be at full liberty to eat a hearty dinner every day, and might entirely leave off the article of psalm-singing.

6. WEREMUND, 775.

7. TILHERE, 779, of whom little of importance is recorded.

8. EATHORED, 782.—9. DENEVERT, 799.—10. EADBERTUS, 822.—11. ALWIN, 848.—12. WEREFRED, 872.—13. WILFRETH, 892.—14. ETHELHUNUS, 915.—15. WILFRETH, 922.—16. KINEWOLDUS 929.—Of all whom nothing more is recorded, than their having procured numerous additions to the wealth of the church.

17. ST. DUNSTAN, 957. He had been Abbot of Glastonbury, and was such a clever saint as to be able to hold two bishoprics, enjoying that of London, along with this, until he was made Archbishop of Canterbury. His conduct to King Edwy, and his cruel treatment of that monarch's wife, on the plea that her beauty had prompted him to infringe upon the canonical degrees of consanguinity, are sufficient proofs of the impudence and cruelty of these papal tyrants, when their interest was at stake; for the enlightened, though youthful, monarch's attempt to prevent all the wealth of his subjects being swallowed up by lazy monks, was the true cause of that savage conduct which would have disgraced an unenlightened savage! On the death of Edwy, Edgar succeeded, who recalled Dunstan from his just banishment, and gave to this church the charter, beginning "Altitonantis Dei largiflua clementia," * and continued in a strain of bombast which must have originated from the pen of the saint himself.

18. ST. OSWALD, 960, another saint, succeeded. Of him it appears that he was skilled in making *mantraps*; for it is recorded of him†, that near to the cathedral of St. Peter, he built a church to the Blessed Virgin, where he conversed so familiarly with the monks, that he drew the people much in his favour: on which the

* Harl. Coll. 358. Art. 26. † Leland. Collect. Vol. I. 217.

neighbouring clergy seeing this, chose rather to become monks also, than to be thus left in the lurch! The *monkish writers* have given him a high character; but it is said by another writer that as soon as he was preferred to the see of Worcester, he joined heartily with *Dunstan*, then archbishop, and the Bishop of Winchester, in bringing in the monks, disturbing rather than reforming the church of God: he and they decreeing that the *secular* clergy for their concubinage should be turned out, and the *sober and chaste* monks put in their place. This bishop dilapidated the church revenues much, by gifts to his own servants and others; which gifts, as a mere list, occupy no less than eight quarto pages in Thomas's Survey. Of the various miracles of this saint, one must suffice: when he was building his monastery, a square stone lay not far from it, very fit and necessary to be used in it, which all the artificers could not stir out of its place. St. Oswald seeing the fruitless pains they took, wondered; but silently praying to God, his eyes were opened, and he saw sitting on the stone a little black devil, deriding the labourers with obscene gestures; upon which the man of God making the sign of the cross, drove him away; and the stone, which eighty men could not move before, was by three persons lifted up, and put into its proper place.

19. *ALDULPH*, 992, who succeeded to this from the abbey of Peterborough. He also got *York*; and for holding these two, he is excused by Malmesbury, *on account of his sanctity*.

20. *WOLSTAN I.* 1002, nicknamed the *Reprobate*, by the Monks, he having curtailed the wealth and luxury of these gentry: but he is by others called a religious prelate.

21. *LEOFFIUS*, 1023, Abbot of Thorney. He died at Kemsey, where the bishops then had a palace.

22. *BRITTEAGUS*, 1033, Abbot of Pershore. This gentleman is accused of robbing the church, by giving away the lands to his own relatives, like some of his predecessors.

23. *LIVINGUS*, 1038, Bishop also of Crediton and Cornwall. It was in his time that Worcester suffered so much under Hardicanute.

canute. At the time of his death there was heard such a clap of thunder all over England, that many thought the day of judgment was come; but *why* this clap of thunder took place, the monks do not inform us.

24. ALDRED, 1036. He seems to have been in great repute amongst the widows, several of whom, at his intercession, were very generous to the church; and one in particular, *Wiburga*, for the good of her soul, gave some valuable lands in Feckenham, on condition of being buried in the conventual church at Worcester.

25. ST. WULSTAN II. 1062. He built the cathedral, as already recorded. His early piety, sometimes praying for four days and nights without ceasing, was sufficient to gain for him the title of a saint, from which the promotion to a bishoprick was a natural consequence. Yet saints had their enemies in these days; for it is said that Archbishop *Lanfranc* attempted to have Bishop Wulstan deposed for insufficiency, though generally considered as second, neither to himself, nor to any other in holiness and virtue, and also extremely popular. To rebut this charge, the saint produced a *striking* evidence; for he struck his pastoral staff so far, and so firm, into the tomb of St. Edward the Confessor, that nobody but himself could pull it out. He seems indeed to have given offence by his extreme attention to public morals, which he sometimes carried to an excess rather ludicrous; but which at the same time was certain of raising him enemies amongst an illiterate and depraved monkhood, who were unwilling that *lay* virtue amongst the people should shame the lives of those who called themselves *canonical*. It is told of him*, that in the time of Edward the Confessor, the hair was permitted to grow to a very great length by almost every rank of persons, which induced the pious bishop to preach with great severity against such an effeminate fashion; and finding perhaps that his sermons had not the full effect he wished them to have, an ancient author assures us, that when any one bowed down before him to receive his blessing,

he

* Vita Wulphani Anglia Sacra, Vol. II. p. 254.

he cut off a lock of his hair with a little sharp knife that he carried about him for the purpose, and enjoined him by way of penance to cut off the rest of his hair in the same manner, denouncing dreadful judgments against such as refused to comply with this requisition.* It must be confessed, that notwithstanding the superstition of the times, this pious and benevolent bishop, for such he really was, had a due sense of the simplicity of a true Christian. We are told that as for his cloathing, it was neither rich nor gay, but clean and plain; void of all pomp, but not wanting in decency; rather to keep out the cold than to set off the body: to this end he made use of woollen garments; and when exhorted to clothe himself in *furs*, "Believe me," said he, by a whimsical perversion of scripture, "I never heard chaunted *Cattus Dei*, but *Agnus Dei*," and therefore he would not adorn himself with *Martins'*, but with *Lamb skins*.

26. SAMPSON, 1097. He was a noble Norman, and canon of Bayeux, and met as usual with the ill will of the monks, by taking away some of their superfluous lands, on account of which his death was represented as a judgment. He lies buried beneath the steps leading to the choir.

27. THEULPHUS, 1115.†—28. SIMON, 1125.—29. JOHN PAGHAM, 1150.—30. ALURED, 1158.

31. ROGER, 1163. He was son of the Earl of Gloucester, and

* Harl. Coll. 322, p. 89, contains a curious compendium of the life and actions of this saint.

In the Cottonian MSS. is a roll of the lands and possessions of the church of Worcester, ordered to be drawn up by Wolstan for the use of his successors, and marked TIB. A. XIII.

The King's Library, 4. C. II. 3.—also 8. C. VII. 20. contains some further particulars under the head Wulstan. Episc. Wigorn.

† In the Cottonian MSS. VESP. E. IV. 207. is a curious convention made in the cathedral in 1116 with Alfgeth de Wilton, on his joining the brotherhood. Also CLAUD. A. I. 36. shews the power of this church at that period, in a letter from Nicholas, the Prior, to William Corboyl, then Prior of St. Asaph, and afterwards Archbishop, stating that he would protect them, and would obtain from the king a free and canonical right of election of a pastor.

and a man of such intrepidity, that whilst celebrating mass at the high altar in Gloucester cathedral, when one of the great towers at the west end fell down with a great noise into the body of the church, although the congregation rushed out as quick as possible, yet he, with one or two monks, went on quietly with the service, and finished it. Much has been said in praise of this prelate; that he was for purity, a lily; for modesty, a rose; for heavenly conversation, a violet; for pleasant company, music; a pillar of justice; and an immoveable rock of defence to the distressed: also that he never gave any of the lands of the church to his own relatives, attending well to that saying of Pope Alexander III. "that God had taken away sons from the bishops, but the Devil had given them nephews."

32. BALDWIN, 1180.—33. WILLIAM DE NORTHALL, 1186.
34. ROBERT FITZ RALPH, 1191.—35. HENRY DE SOILLY, 1193.—36. JOHN DE CONSTANTIS, 1196.—37. MAUGERE, 1200.—38. WALTER GRAY, 1213.—39. SILVESTER DE EVEHAM, 1216.—40. WILLIAM DE BLOYS, 1218,—41. WALTER DE CANTILUPE, 1236. This prelate deserves particular notice for his opposition to papal tyranny; for Rustand, one of the Pope's legates, having come into England, and demanded a large sum from the clergy, for which he had got the king's consent, and even gained over many of the ecclesiastics, yet when the business came to be debated in full synod, Falk, Bishop of London, stood up and declared, "Before I will consent to such an intolerable oppression of the church, I will have my head cut off:" when Walter de Cantilupe immediately seconded him, and boldly said, "Before the church shall be subject to such unjust spoils, I will lose my life at the gallows!"—on which the rest took courage, and the affair dropped.

42. NICHOLAS DE ELY, 1266.

43. GODFREY GIFFARD, 1268. We have already stated the attention of this prelate towards the beautifying of the cathedral.*

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* Those who are fond of judicial investigations, will find some curious proceedings

44. WILLIAM DE GAINSBOROUGH, 1302.—45. WALTER REYNOLDS, 1308.—46. WALTER MAIDSTONE, 1313.—47. THOMAS CORHAM, 1317.—48. ADAM DE ORLETON, 1327. This is the bishop, whose jesuitical answer to the question respecting the legality of the proposed murder of King Edward II. is supposed in some measure to have prompted to that nefarious deed. When Queen Isabel returned to England, he heartily joined with her and her party in their rebellion, and preached against the king at Oxford. When Edward was afterwards prisoner at Hereford, Orleton went there, and demanded from him the broad seal; and afterwards sent his murderers that well known line, "*Edwardum occidere nolite timere bonum est*," which, by a different mode of pointing, may be made either to approve of, or to censure, the plan proposed.

49. SIMON DE MONTACUTE, 1333.—50. THOMAS HEMINGHALL, 1337.—51. WOLSTAN DE BRAUNSFORD, 1338.—52. JOHN THORESBY, 1349.—53. REGINALD BRYAN, 1353.—54. JOHN BARNET, 1362.—55. WILLIAM WITTLESEY, 1363.—56. WILLIAM DE LYNNE, 1369.—57. HENRY WAKEFIELD, 1375. This is he who built the north porch, and increased the length of the church by two arches.*—58. TIDEMAN DE WINCHCOME, 1395.—59. RICHARD CLIFFORD, 1401.—60. THOMAS PEYERALL, 1407.—61. PHILIP MORGAN, 1419.—62. THOMAS POLTON, 1426.—63. THOMAS BOURCHIER, 1435.—64. JOHN CARPENTER, 1443.—65. JOHN ALCOCK, 1476.—66. ROBERT MORTON, 1486.—67. JOHN GIGLES, 1497.—68. SILVESTER GIGLES, 1498, nephew to the late bishop.—69. JULIUS DE MEDICIS, 1521.—a Cardinal of Rome, and afterwards *Pope Clement VII.*

70. JEROME DE GHINUCCI, 1522, an Italian also, but the *last foreigner* who sat in this episcopal chair, being deprived at the reformation.

proceedings respecting some malefactors taken up within the liberty of the Bishop of Worcester: 22 Edward I. in Ayscough's Catalogue, 4525, in the British Museum.

* Leland's Coll. Vol. I. 119.

After a long night of darkness, and a long reign of superstition, it is pleasing to contemplate the dawn of simple Christianity, and of rational liberty of conscience. The next bishop we have now to record is that worthy martyr,

71. HUGH LATIMER, 1535. He was of Christ College, Cambridge; but having afterwards, for conscience sake, resigned this bishopric in Mary's reign, he became a martyr in the year 1555. He was imprisoned first at Oxford, and was brought before the Commissioners, together with Ridley and Crammer, on the specious pretence of reconciling them to the church of Rome, whilst, in fact, a predetermination to take their lives, was only to be covered in some degree from the eyes of the people, by this mockery of justice.* The two latter having been examined, the bishop was brought before his judges, dressed as in prison, with a cap on his head buttoned under his chin, a pair of spectacles hanging at his breast, a new Testament under his arm, and a staff in his hand. The crowd was so great that he was quite exhausted in forcing his way through it, when the prolocutor, with some appearance of decency, ordered a chair to be brought for him. The venerable prelate walked up to it, and saying, "he was a very old man," sat down without further ceremony. A paper, containing the contested articles of transubstantiation, &c. and accompanied with an avowal of their truths, was tendered to him for his signature, but this he refused; when the prolocutor told him that he must dispute the point and justify his denial, if he could, on the Wednesday following. The meek old man shook his palsied head, and smiling, cheerfully said, "Indeed, gentlemen, I am just as well qualified to be made governor of Calais," which at that time formed part of the British dominions. He then observed to the Court, that he was very old and infirm, and complained that he was not allowed the use of pen and ink, nor of any book except that under his arm, which he had deliberately read over seven times without finding the slightest mention made of

* Vide Gilpin's Life of Latimer: also Butcher's Excursion from Sidmouth to Chester, which contains some very liberal animadversions on this subject.

the mass. On the following Wednesday he was again brought into Court, and called on with most illiberal pomposity to defend his opinions; but he coolly said, "I will beg leave, Sir, to *protest* my faith. Indeed I am not able to dispute. I will protest my faith; and then you may do with me just what you please." He then took a paper from his pocket, in which he had committed to writing his several reasons against assenting to the articles which he had been called on to subscribe. This he began to read; but he had not proceeded many minutes, when a general clamour in the Court prevented his being heard. At this illiberal and unjust proceeding the venerable Latimer paused; and then turning towards the prolocutor, observed, with unaccustomed vehemence, "In my time I have spoken before two kings, and have been heard for some hours together without interruption; but here I cannot be permitted one quarter of an hour. Dr. Weston! I have frequently heard of you before! but I think I never saw you till I came before you on this occasion. I perceive you have great wit, and great learning: God grant you may make a right use of these gifts!" He then presented to the prolocutor the paper containing his protestation. On the next day sentence of death was pronounced upon him, yet it was not until sixteen months afterwards that it was put in force; the papal party fearing that the people's minds were not yet prepared for it. When brought to the stake with Ridley, on the 16th of October, 1555, these martyrs were insulted by a tedious harangue, or sermon, from a Dr. Smith, who, by an impious and absurd perversion of scripture, took his text: "Though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing." But with *true liberality* they were not permitted to reply to this spiteful effusion of baffled malice! and were immediately told, "that they might make ready for the stake *at their leisure*!" For this awful moment Latimer had come clad in a shroud under his threadbare cassock; and when they were tied to the stake, a faggot being kindled, and laid first at his companion's feet, he exclaimed with energy, "Be of good comfort Master Ridley!
and

and play the man: we shall this day light such a candle by God's grace in England, as I trust will never be put out!" He then quietly stroked his face with his hand, and the flames rising round him, some gunpowder, which had been fastened to his body, exploded, and he soon expired, leaving behind him, as has been well observed, the character of a most exemplary and primitive Christian, and of a man of the most simple, unaffected, and persevering goodness.* Though he did not suffer until 1555, he had been succeeded long before that in the bishopric by

72. JOHN BELL, 1539. He was a Worcestershire man, and educated at Baliol College, Oxford.

73. NICHOLAS HEATH, 1543, who was deprived, and JOHN HOOPER, Bishop of Gloucester, put in his room, but afterwards restored.

74. RICHARD PATES, 1555. again a Catholic bishop, holding the see in the same year that Latimer suffered.

75. EDWIN SANDYS, 1559. The life of this exemplary prelate, ancestor of the present Marchioness of Downshire, Baroness Sandys, may be seen, in any of the English peerages; and shall be noticed more fully under the head of Ombersley, to the pedigree of whose noble possessor he will always be an ornament. The state of the bishopric of Worcester in his time may be found at length in the HARL. COLL. No. 595. 23. "the aunswere of Edwyne Sandys, Bishop of Wourcestre, made the 28th day of July, in the 5th year of our Soveragne Ladye Elizabethe, to

G 3

certayne

* In the injunctions given by this bishop in his visitation in 1537, he directs all Parsons,

"That ye and every one of you provyde to have of your owne a hole Bible, yf ye can conveniently, or at least a New Testamente, both in Latin and Englyshe.

"That ye and every one of you do rede over and studye every daye one chapetre at the least, conferryng the Latin and the Englyshe together, proceeding from the chapetre from begynning of the boke to the ende.

"That no parson, vicar, curate, nor chauntre priest from henceforth do discourage any lay personne from the redinge of good boke."

certayne articles directed unto hym from her majestyes most honorable preysse counselle." He was translated to London, and succeeded by

26. NICHOLAS BULLINGHAM, 1570—77. JOHN WHITGIFT, 1577—78. EDMUND FREAK, 1584—79. RICHARD FLETCHER, 1593. 80. THOMAS BILSON, 1596—81. GERYASE BARINGTON, 1597.—82. HENRY PARRY, 1610.—83. JOHN THORNBOROUGH, 1616.—84. JOHN PAIDEAUX, 1641. During the civil wars, he was dismissed, his bishopric sequestered, and himself only allowed four shillings and sixpence per week for his maintenance. In this distress he retired to Bredon, where he lies buried, and bore his fate with cheerfulness and good humour. From the scantiness of his allowance, he was obliged to sell his books and furniture, in order to procure the necessaries of life; and one day walking through the village with something concealed under his gown, he was asked by a neighbour "what he had got there?" He replied, that he was become an pastrich, and forced to live upon iron; at the same time shewing him some old iron, which he was going to sell at the blacksmiths, to enable him to buy a dinner. This anecdote, with many others of the good old man, has been preserved by tradition in the family of *Webb* in that district, into which his daughter married.*

85. GEORGE MORLEY, 1660.—JOHN GAUDEN, 1662.—

87. JOHN EARLE, 1662,—88. ROBERT SKINNER, 1663.

89. WALTER BLANDFORD, 1671--90. JAMES FLEETWOOD, 1675.

91. WILLIAM THOMAS, 1683, removed here from St. Davids.

92. EDWARD STILLINGFLEET, 1689. Well known as an elegant writer on subjects of divinity.

93. WILLIAM LLOYD. 1699.

94. JOHN HOUGH. 1717. When this venerable prelate entered upon the see of Worcester, he was nearly seventy years of age, yet he lived upwards of twenty-six years in this episcopal chair,

* See further, Walker's Sufferings of the clergy.

chair, in a constant residence upon his diocese, and the most exemplary discharge of all the duties of his function. He rebuilt great part of the palace in Worcester; and made great improvements in Hartlebury castle. The most material events of his life may be found under the head of "Monuments."

95. ISAAC MADOX, D. D. Bishop of St Asaph, translated here in 1743, and died in 1759.

96. JAMES JOHNSON. 1759. Of Christ Church Oxford, and translated hither from the see of Gloucester.

Further particulars of these last two bishops have been already recorded in the account of their monuments.

97. Hon. Brownlow North, L. L. D. translated from Lichfield and Coventry, in 1774; and from hence to Winchester.

98. Richard Hurd, D. D. translated from Lichfield and Coventry, 1781. Of this excellent, and highly venerable prelate, (says Green in his Survey of Worcester) it only becomes us at present to add, that his eminent learning, his critical, moral, and theological works, have gained him the esteem and applause of all men of true taste and virtue; and his benevolence, politeness, and charity, have peculiarly endeared him to the diocese, over which he so exemplarily presides. Such, adds Mr. Green, is the venerable successor to a long series of prelates, illustrious by their station, and many of them yet more so by the brightness of their charities.

99. Folliott Herbert Walker Cornwall, is the present occupant of the episcopal throne.

We shall now leave the cathedral for other objects, after a brief notice of some things connected with the

DEAN AND CHAPTER.

At the dissolution, the revenues of the priory, &c. amounted to 1386l. 12s. 10d. or 1290l. 10s. 6d.* most of which was re-granted on the 24th January 1541-2, for the endowment of a dean, ten prebendaries, ten minor canons, ten lay clerks, ten choristers, forty king's scholars, two schoolmasters, together with verger and other subordinate officers. The prebends are valuable, and nine of them were reserved by Henry VIII. for the gift of the

G 4 crown,

* Tanner's Monasticon.

crown, the tenth being annexed to the Margaret professorship of divinity at Oxford, though we believe not finally settled before the third year of Charles I. when an act of parliament passed on that subject.*

The attention of the stranger is now drawn towards the
CASTLE,

which once stood in this vicinity, but which, even as early as the reign of Henry VIII. was in a state of complete dilapidation. Leland, speaking of it, says, "the castle stood hard on the south part of the cathedral church, almost in Severn. It is now cleane downe, and half the base court or area of it, is now within the wall of the close of the cathedral church. The dungeon-hill of the castle a greate thinge, at this tyme overgrown with brushwood. The castle fell to ruine soon after the conquest, and half the ground of it was given to the augmenting of the close of the priory." It is evident therefore, that there can be little left to gratify curiosity; indeed with the exception of some remains of the ancient walls, which may be traced in the county jail, there is nothing left but the dungeon, or donjon-hill, mentioned by Leland, which is upon a very large scale, now enclosed in a pleasant garden, and generally known by the name of Castle-hill. Urso d' Abtot, the first hereditary sheriff of the county, is generally considered as its founder;† and notwithstanding the complete state of ruin in which

* No. 464. 29 of the Harl. MSS. contains a succession of all the deans, down to Dr. William Talbot; also a succession of the prebendaries.

In No. 604. 48. is part of an inventory of the plate, vestments, utensils, &c. belonging to the priory of Worcester; time of Henry VIII.

Ayscough's catalogue of MSS. No. 856. 112. contains a curious recommendation from Charles II. to the dean and chapter of Worcester "to increase the salaries of vicars choral; in order that they might more fully praise God for his miraculous restoration; and also enjoining the chapter to a strict observance of the different statutes of his royal predecessors."

† Though the castle was abandoned at such an early period, yet its *guard* was still annexed to the sheriff's office, which descended from Urso in the female line, to the Beauchamps, Earls of Warwick, and from them again by a female, to the Nevilles, who also enjoyed the same title; but on the death of the great earl, the king maker, at the battle of Barnet, all those rights fell to

which it is, or rather of almost total obliteration, it is evident from the castle hill, which is of unusual dimensions, and from what were its ancient limits, that it must have been a magnificent structure according to the style of those early times. The visitor may even yet, though with difficulty, trace part of the ditch, and he will not fail of being struck with the judiciousness of the situation, so well adapted not only to protect the church and city, but also to command the navigation of the Severn.* Some further notice of it as a *Gaol*, will be found in another section; in the mean time, we shall proceed on our tour round the several

CHURCHES,

the first of which on leaving the cathedral is

ST. MICHAEL'S the archangel, or Bedwardine, standing at the north-east angle of that building, but notwithstanding considered as out of the city. Its parish includes the college church-yard, and is sometimes called the college precincts. It is a very ancient specimen of ecclesiastical architecture, but its inside having been fitted up and repaired, a few years ago, it appears not only in good preservation, but is now extremely neat, decent, and commodious for the auditory. Much praise is due to the parish for those exertions; for it cannot be doubted that the frequent dampness and want of comfort in the house of God, often deters the aged and infirm from attending, and send many of them to the well floored, and well aired tabernacle of the Sectary. Here, however, that excuse is wanting; and this church is now ornamented with a new altar-piece and communion-table, and a pulpit extremely well carved; to these must be added, a new gallery and pews, so that it can scarcely be surpassed in respectability of appearance,

Some years ago, when the burying ground was found to be so full of corpses as to preclude further interment, the bones of those which were in the most decayed state, were dug up, and disposed of in the charnel-house, which is a large vault under the court of a house

the crown, since which, as in other counties, annual sheriffs have been appointed, who still take charge of the castle, as it is at *present* the county gaol.

* In the Cottonian MSS. JUL. F. VI. 587. are some extracts from the ancient register of the cathedral, respecting this castle.

a house which stands near to the palace, the entrance to which is from the vaults of the cathedral, and here, as Dr. Nash observes, lie promiscuously, the bones of many thousands, lords, monks, and fair ladies. In the gift of the dean and chapter.

Keeping along the London road we now see to the right hand, ST. PETER'S CHURCH, between the china manufactory and the high road, near to the Diglis meadows. This is a very ancient church founded as early as 1280, being then parcel of the abbey at Pershore. It has, of late years, been put into a thorough state of repair, both inside and out, and the tower in particular has been very judiciously attended to. In the south aisle near the door is the family vault of the Wyldes, long resident at the *Commandery*, which stands in this parish; and it has been customary for this aisle to be kept in repair at their expense. The middle aisle also depends on private care, and is in charge of the family of Ingram, as impropiators of the great tythes: their charge extends from the east end to the cross arch of that aisle. In the gift of the chapter.

ST. HELEN'S CHURCH cannot fail of attracting the attention of the stranger as he passes from the College-yard to the High-Street; it is on the left hand, in the range of building, and is worthy of notice for its antiquity, for Leland says "there be eight parish churches in the town, whereof St. Hellen is counted the most ancient, and it was a prebend before King Edgar's days to the cathedral church of Worcester, and Bloxham in Worcester, was mother." Notwithstanding the ravages of time marking its extreme antiquity, yet it possesses great respectability, and an evident good state of repair, in addition to its venerable appearance. The tower is still sufficiently strong to bear the weight of a modern set of eight well-toned bells, whose inscriptions are intended to immortalize some of the most splendid victories of Queen Anne's reign. The inside contains a number of monuments well worth examining, and is kept in very neat order: the body is divided into three aisles by two rows of pillars, and the altar-piece has lately undergone a thorough repair. In the gift of the bishop.

St.

ST. ALBAN'S CHURCH stands at the back of St. Helen's, towards the river, at the corner of Fish Street; but contains nothing remarkable beyond its style of architecture, being amongst the oldest in the city. In the gift of the dean and chapter.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH cannot fail of being noticed on the right hand, as the visitor is on his way to Messrs. Barr and Flight's china manufactory; indeed its extremely beautiful spire must excite his curiosity in almost every part of the city. The church itself is of considerable antiquity, as early as the eleventh century, and is much admired, not only from its ancient style, but from the very handsome modern improvements in its interior: the most striking feature, however, is the lofty spire, considered not only as a real ornament to the city, and as a convincing proof of the skill and ingenuity of the architect, but in fact as one of the most perfect, both in form and construction, of any in the kingdom. This ingenious architect was a common stone mason, a native of the city; his name, Nathaniel Wilkinson: and it is considered by good judges, that he has improved even upon the so much boasted spire of Salisbury cathedral, inasmuch as this rises from its base according to the most correct gradual diminution, terminating in the finest point, whilst the former is brought abruptly to its apex, as if the builder had been afraid to carry it to the height required by its proportions. The admeasurement of the various parts is as follows:—

	<i>Feet.</i>	<i>Inches.</i>
Height of the ancient tower,	90	0
—————Spire	155	6
Diameter of its base	20	0
—————Under the cap	0	6½

the whole terminated by a Corinthian capital, surmounted with a gilt weather cock. In the gift of the dean and chapter.

ALL SAINT'S CHURCH, which is noticed in the opening on the left hand going down from Broad Street to the bridge, has been rebuilt in the year 1742, the old structure having been so much damaged in the civil wars, as to require taking down. This is

now a handsome edifice in the modern style, very spacious in consequence of the great extent of the parish, which is the most populous in the city, and fully equal to their accommodation; and is besides sufficiently elegant to demand the meed of approbation. With a praise-worthy attention, some, indeed we hope all, of the ancient monuments have been preserved; but the only one particularly deserving the notice of a casual visitor, is one near the communion table, and placed at the east end of the south aisle, of *Edward Hurdman, Esq.* and his wife, with their effigies in the attitude of prayer. He was the first Mayor of Worcester. On the outside also, may be noticed a carved head of the pious Hough, included in a circular cavity over the east window. The tower also deserves attention, being terminated with battlements and pinnacles at the corners, and having a very musical set of ten bells. In the British Museum,* is a very curious fragment of a letter, written during the civil wars "by Robert Finchett, Pastor of the church at All-hallows Worcester, and subscribed in the name of the church at Elkington, by Timothy Jordan, pastor, and Robert Brown, Teacher," in which they state to Cromwell,

" May it please your honour

" The noble acts that the lord hath enabled you to do for him, and his royall cause in the day of his imprisonment and declension, hath not made you more terrible to the adversaries of Zion, than that spirit of meeknesse and readinesse to help forward the righteous desires of the poore among the flocke, (especially where layd in a way of subserviency to the rise of poor Zion, and the kingdom of our dear Lord,) which Jehovah hath crowned you with, hath rendered you beautiful and honourable amongst the prince's children. It is purely this that hath encouraged us to present these few lines to your honour, on the behalfe we trust of Christ and his cause. That this is a day of darknesse, and distresse, wherein the children of darknesse are digging deep, and that more industriously than ever, to undermine the interest of the Lord, and

to

* Ayscough's MSS. 4155, p. 9.

to pull up what he of late years hath been pleased to plant, your honour we doubt not is deeply sensible of. Of what concernment, it is upon that foot of account (if upon noe other) to have the power of the militia of counties settled in the hands of men that are* ——— God (as we shall not take the ——— humbly crave pardon for our bo ——— you to the Lord whom we cannot but still pursue on your behalfe, that you may be crowned with a greater spirit of love, life, faith, and magnanimity, than ever, that you may dwell under his shadow, and be drinking large draughts of his love, till your beloved shall call you to come away, to live eternally with him to sing his praises.

From Worcester the tenth day of the sixth month, 1659.'---
In the gift of the crown.

ST. CLEMENT'S CHURCH stands by the side of the river, a little to the north of the bridge. This is a Saxon-built edifice, and it is supposed that part of it, at least, is of the ancient foundation: it has, however, suffered very much of later years, particularly when the republican army pulled down the city wall, at which time the tower was destroyed. It contains nothing of specific note, and is on a very small scale: but has this peculiarity, that the whole of the parish, with the exception of itself, is on the other side of the river, the inhabitants, in ancient times, having paid more attention to its security, than to that of their own habitations. There is a monkish tradition that it was begun to be built on the western bank of Severn, but that angels by night, took away the stones to where it now stands; it is not said, however, that they built it. In the gift of the dean and chapter.

Returning to the High Street, and crossing it to the eastern side, ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH appears at the north-east angle of the corn-market. This is a modern brick building with a stone foundation; having also rustic corners, door and window cases, also a pediment and cornice of the same material. It was finished in October 1772, after four year's labour, and is 60 feet by 45. The brick tower, notwithstanding its colour, is of very light appearance,

* The MS. is torn at these dashes.

ance, and is ornamented like the body of the edifice with rustic corners and windows; it stands 70 feet high, and is crowned with ballustrades and pinnacles of light airy architecture. Green records a curious anecdote which took place at the commencement of its erection, and observes that such an interment would have been more suitable to the vicinity of a Bacchanalian temple, than a Christian church. He says, that as some of the workmen were digging by the side of the foundation of the old church, they met with a coffin much decayed, and which, upon their endeavouring to remove it, broke asunder; when they discovered within it, some old fashioned tobacco pipes, a small three-handled black earthen cup and a pewter chamber-pot, all entire. It is generally conjectured that this coffin also had contained the corpse of some jolly old toper, at whose desire this beloved apparatus had been buried with him. In the gift of the dean and chapter.

ST. SWITHIN'S CHURCH is in the same neighbourhood, and was rebuilt in 1736, on a very neat, yet handsome, scale. The visitor will not fail to admire the very elegant arrangements within; and his guide will not fail to inform him, that this, with the exception of the cathedral, is the only church in Worcester possessed both of an organ and chimes.

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH, standing near the hop-market, deserves more than a passing glance; being very neat and commodious on the inside, and in general, on Sundays, most respectably filled. Its style of architecture, executed in stone, is very pleasing, the front being of the Doric order, with six pilasters, the lower part rusticated, and the roof ballustraded. As this church is considered as an elegant specimen of modern ecclesiastical architecture, it may not be irrelevant to give a more detailed statement of its plan, selected from a late writer, who describes the entrance to be Doric, with plain mouldings, whilst the inner pilasters support a circular pediment, beneath which are the arms of England, on a very large scale. The tower is square at the base, but has double breaks at the corners; the dial is in the front, whilst the other sides are filled with windows which give it an air

of great lightness. Over these is a plain cornice, from which it is again set off square, with windows, and rounded arches, from whence, capped with another plain cornice, it is set off to an octagon, in whose sides are the windows of the belfry, containing a set of six bells. Above this it is cylindrical, surmounted with a cupola supported by eight Tuscan columns, the top pyramidal and terminated by a gilt ball and weather-cock. The interior is handsomely ornamented with an altar-piece of the Doric order, over which is a circular window of painted glass, being a full glory, with a dove in the centre, emblematical of the Holy Spirit. The ceiling is lofty, but plain; having little more than the central ornaments usual where a lustre is suspended. Even the pews, though of simple oak, have an air of neatness extremely consistent with the general effect; and the whole, without being too gaudy to offend the eye of taste, is sufficiently ornamented for a Christian church. In the old building was once a curious monument, but now lost. Habingdon says that it was

“To the fragrant memory of Mrs. Penelope Brace; daughter of Philip Brace, Esq. of Doverdale; a chaste and untainted daughter of the Church of England, no less admired than lamented for her unshaken profession and pious example. Her sublime soul left her virgin body, and many good works to follow,” &c. A.D. 1684.”

We cannot leave the church of St. Nicholas without recording an affecting instance of maternal sensibility, too interesting to escape notice. Some time about the year 1767, a Mr. and Mrs. Glover, who then resided near to the church, had been so unfortunate as to lose their two children in infancy, by the small-pox; and so nearly at the same time, that they were interred together in the vault underneath. Their loss proved so great a shock to the mother, that Mr. G. found it necessary to take every means to prevent a too frequent recurrence of the sad event, from reaching her mind. He had for that purpose engaged the sexton to inform him of those days when funerals were to take place, that he might take Mrs. G. on a visit to some friend, distant enough
from

from home to prevent, not only her seeing the occasional processions, but also hearing the tolling of the church bell.

Twelve months had thus passed, and from an unremitted attention to this prudent measure, no inconvenience had arisen, but (Friday, September 3, 1767) through the neglect of the sexton, who had failed to give the previous notice to Mr. G. like an electric shock, the death-bell smote her ear, and all a mother's griefs arose at once in the bosom of this amiable woman. The husband, who saw it too late to prevent her agonizing affliction, endeavoured still to soothe her, but in vain. She recollected it to have been exactly twelve months since the same bell had summoned her infants to the grave! She also recollected, (fatally) that the door of the vault in which they lay, was now open: but she concealed that thought; and assuming a composure that lulled the vigilance of her husband, who had thence formed hopes of her being able to sustain the trial with some degree of fortitude, he left her to a momentary indulgence of her melancholy reflections! Alas! it was not long before he found how cruelly he had deceived himself! this modern *Rachael*, that would not be comforted, because her children were not, pursuing the gloomy purpose of her soul, had eluded all his watchfulness, and made her way to the house of death; she had reached the coffins of her infants, when she fell, and almost instantly expired!* In the gift of the bishop. Though containing so many churches, in proportion to its population, yet Worcester is not deficient in the number of its Sectarian chapels; these are, an *Independent* chapel, in the street facing St. Helen's church; *Lady Huntingdon's* between the Town Hall and the river; *Presbyterian* at the end of Angel Street; *Anabaptist* near Lowesmere; *Catholic* nearly opposite to it, and *Quaker's* between that and the Foregate Street. Of other

RELIGIOUS FOUNDATIONS.

now destroyed, but once existing here, very few particulars are to be found on record. There were several houses of Grey and minor

* Worcester Journal, 30006, 1767.

minor Friars, Dominicans, Penitents, &c. besides St. Oswald's, and some others, which will be noticed according to their modern designations; there was also one called "Yeogeriecestre," said by Leland to have been founded by King Edgar. But the most remarkable was the *Commandery**, established for the maintenance of two chaplains, five poor men, and two poor women, under the name of *St. Wulstan's*, having been endowed first by that prelate, and granted at the dissolution, by Henry VIII. to Sir Richard Morysine, who exchanged it again with that monarch, when it became part of the endowment of Christ Church in Oxford. It had acquired the name of the commandery, previous to this; and Newcourt tells us, † that "Commanderies" were the same amongst the Knights Hospitallers, as "Preceptories" amongst the Templars, and were those societies of the Knights placed upon the estates in the country under the controul of a commander, who were allowed proper maintenance out of the revenues under their care, and accounted for the remainder to the Grand Prior at London. It is now particularly remarkable in having been in the possession of Cardinal Wolsey, whose life will be found in its proper place; but of whom we cannot help recording some curious particulars in this place, extracted from an old MS. in the British Museum ‡ containing his Memoirs by William Cavendish, ancestor of the Devonshire family, and who first began the house at Chatsworth. In the quaint style of those days, it begins, "it seemyth no wisdome to credite everye lighte tale blasted abroade, by the blasphemous mouths of the rude commonaltie; for wee dayly heare how with theyre blasphemous trumps they spreade abroade innumerable lyes, without either shame or honestie; whyche (prima facie) sheweth forth a visage of truthe, although it were a perfytt veritye, and matter indede, wherein there is nothinge more untrue. Truth it is that this Cardinal Woolsey was an honest poor man's sonne of Ipswich,

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in

* Tanner's Monasticon.

† Newcourt's Repertorium.

‡ Ayscough's Catalogue, 4233.

in the countie of Suffolke, and theyre borne; and being but a chylde, was very apte to be learned, wherefore by the meanes of his parentes, or of his good frendes and masters he was conveyed to the universitie of Oxforde; where he prosperyd shortly so in learning, that (as he tolde mee by his owne mouthe) he was made Bachelor of Artes, when he paste not fifteen yeers of age, insomuch as for the rareness of his age he was called, most commonly through the universitie, the boy bachelor." This curious MS. concludes, "who liste to reade and consider whilst he reedyth this historye, may behold the mutabilitie of vain honours and brittle assurance in abundance, the uncertentye of dignities, the flatteringe of fayned freinds, and the futile favour of worldlye princes, whereof the Lord Cardinall hath felte and tasted both of the sweete and sowre in eche degrees, and fleetyuge from honours, losinge of riches, deposed from dignities, forsaken of freindes, and the mutabilitie of princes favour."

The cardinal having received a bull from the pope permitting the suppression of this monastery, was about to make the necessary arrangements, when his sudden fall gave occasion to Henry to seize upon this, with all his other possessions. The College of Christ Church, to whom it was then granted, leased it to the family of the *Wylde*s, who preserved great part of the ancient building, adding a more modern front to the south, and made it for many years their residence. The ancient part seems to have been entirely timber framed; the front towards the street resembles those ruinous wooden buildings, not unfrequent in some of our old country towns; but the most curious part is in the rear, to which the spectator enters by a gate-way, which seems once to have been the chapel. Part of this chapel is boarded off on the right, but the ancient roof appears, and having gone through into what once was a court, we enter the great hall, which served also for the refectory. This is the principal remnant of the old monastery, or commandery, and is a square of considerable dimensions. The ancient door remains, also a staircase, and on the right of the hall, is the chapel before spoken

of; but quite in a state of dilapidation. Much of the painted glass, consisting of heads and mottos, with birds, flowers, &c. remains in the hall windows; and upon the whole, the building, though much altered from its original state, is still deserving the notice of the antiquary. It now belongs to, or is occupied by, a Quaker, connected with the leather-trade, and as alterations were taking place when the Editor examined it, it is probable that much of its air of antiquity may soon be lost.

We shall now take a slight review of the

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,

the first of which is the GUILDHALL, standing on the west side of the High Street, nearly opposite to the market-place. This handsome structure is well worthy the dignity and grandeur of such an ancient city, but is itself a modern building, being begun in the early part of the last century, and finished in 1723, and executed from a design of Mr. White, pupil of Sir Christopher Wren, and a native of this city. Standing some little distance from the line of houses, it presents a noble front of brick, ornamented with stone quoins, with mouldings and tablets to the windows, of the same material. Over the line of front, is a coved cornice, beneath which are fluted pilasters, supporting an arched pediment, with the arms of the British Empire, supported by two angels, and other pieces of sculpture, the whole arranged as an antique classical trophy. The principal entrance, after ascending some semicircular steps, is ornamented with columns of the composite order, highly enriched, and crowned with an indented cornice, and open pediment, in which are the city arms.* On each side of this principal entrance are the statues of the two Kings Charles, in niches; and over it, is a statue of Queen Anne. The whole of the front is very appropriately surmounted with five statues, consisting of Justice, Peace, Plenty, Industry, and Chas-

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tisement;

* Quarterly Sable, and Gules, a tower triple-towered argent in the dexter chief, on a canton of the third, a fesse between 3 pears, 2 and 1 of the first; the motto, "*Floreat semper fidelis Civitas.*" May this loyal city *etw* flourish.

tisement; each designated by their usual emblems, and the *cons-ensemble* presents a most elegant appearance, particularly when viewed so as to shew its side wings in perspective, surpassing most, and being equalled by but few, buildings of the same kind throughout the kingdom. The stranger, on entering the hall, is much pleased with the *coup d'œil* of a large, light, and handsome apartment, whose spaciousness is considerably broken by its various ornaments, but not so as to destroy any of its effect. Its length is 110 feet six inches, breadth twenty-five feet six inches, and height twenty-one feet. The western side is occupied by a staircase in the centre, and the two courts of justice; the Crown Court on the right, and the *nisi prius* on the left; as the sessions both for the county and city are held here. The mottos over the chairs in each court are highly appropriate, and peculiarly typical of the jurisdiction of each. The portraits in this hall are also deserving of attention; these consist of pictures of Charles I. Queen Anne, Sir John Pakynton; and one which has been considered as a master-piece in this department of the art, a whole length portrait of Thomas Winnington, Esq. of the family of Stanford Court. The staircase, already mentioned, leads to the council-chamber, in the centre of one side of which, immediately facing the entrance, is a portrait of our present monarch, his gift to the corporation, and decorated with appropriate embellishments. To conclude, in the words of a local historian, in this room the public balls and assemblies are held, on which occasions it is lighted up by a series of twelve elegant chandeliers, representing shields of glass in highly ornamented gilt frames. To complete this truly liberal example of civic magnificence, it will be found that every other appendage, whether for use or ornament, is furnished throughout in a style of dignified taste, strictly appropriate to, and befitting the uses of, this noble apartment. In a word, the whole of this elegant fabric is peculiarly well adapted to every purpose for which it was intended; comprising within itself every necessary office for furnishing the splendid feasts occasionally given there; and every accommodation

tion for a genteel reception of the nobility and gentry, who, on public occasions, honour it with their presence. An accident took place here, in the year 1757, which may be considered worth recording. On the 6th of March, arose the greatest storm of wind, on the western side of the island, that was then ever remembered. The violence of this tempest blew down a stack of chimnies at the Guildhall, which beat through the roof, and from thence through the ceiling over the nisi prius bar, whilst the court of assize was sitting. Mr. Justice Wilmot, who was sitting on the Bench, escaped any accident, but four of the five barristers then in Court, were severely hurt: of the auditory, however, no less than six persons lost their lives; these were the Cryer of the Court, Mr. Chambers, an Attorney of Kidderminster, Mr. Freme, an ironmonger, Mr. Hurtle of Hartlebury, and Mr. Shaw of Ombersley. All of whom were taken out dead from the rubbish, but Mr. Wainwright of Bromsgrove, who, though taken out alive, survived but a few minutes. Many others were also seriously hurt from the great confusion, and by the people in general rushing out of the hall; in which many were thrown down, and trampled upon.

Amongst other public works of utility, is the

BRIDGE,

which in ancient times, according to Leland's description, was "a royal piece of worke, high and stronge, and had six great arches of stone;" the present new and elegant one, however, consists but of five arches, which are truly magnificent. Great complaints existing respecting the old bridge about forty years ago, both on account of its narrowness, and its extreme bad state of repair, a very generous present was made by the then members for the city, J. Walsh, and Henry Crab Boulton, Esqrs. intended either for the repair of the old, or to assist in the erection of a new one: the magnitude of the sum, which was 3000*l*. joined to other reasons, induced those concerned in its management, to procure an Act of Parliament for rebuilding it, and for borrowing money for that purpose. The first stone was laid by the late Earl of Coventry, and the work proceeded so rapidly,

under the inspection of Mr. John Gwynne, the architect, that it was opened in the year 1781. The diameter of the centre arch is forty-one feet, whilst the four others decline in a small proportion to assimilate with the necessary sweep of the segment of that arc that forms the general outline. The chord of this arc from bank to bank is nearly 270 feet, with archways to the towing paths; and the clear width of the whole is twenty-five feet, including a flagged path of four feet on each side, which is not only convenient for general use, but forms a very handsome promenade in a summer evening. The archways for the towing paths are thus constructed to prevent all interruption to the passage over the bridge, and they are also separated from the general thoroughfare, by ballustraded returns, which are a continuation of the parapets of the bridge, and are each in length seventy-two feet, with a flagged pavement between them and the river, forming the towing paths of about twelve feet in width. In a strict attention to usefulness, a liberal spirit of ornament has not been wanting; the toll-houses at the west end are very elegant domes, and the embellishments of the centre arch are the head of *Sabrina*, forming the northern keystone, whilst that of Old Ocean is on the southern one. To all this we must add, in the words of a local historian, that to make the approaches to the city correspond with the modern elegance of this structure which would in fact have been worthy of ancient Rome, the avenues on each side of the river have been laid open to a very commodious extent; the quays have been made extremely spacious, and also convenient and easy of access; whilst a very handsome street, (Bridge Street) forms an opening to Broad Street, instead of the narrow lane which formerly existed, and brings the traveller at once into all the bustle of the city. The total expense of executing this very liberal plan amounted to upwards of 30,000*l.* which has been borrowed under the authority of an Act of Parliament, and paid by the regular tolls, which were to continue on horses and carriages, until repaid, and also on foot passengers until the original debt should be reduced to

5000*l.*

5000*l.* That debt amounted in 1807, to 5192*l.* together with some annuities, &c. whilst the tolls were let for 1840*l.* per annum; since that, however, by the sale of surplus ground, and the regular increase of the tolls, the debt is so far reduced as to have taken off the pedestrian tax.

Before we quit the vicinity of the river, it will not be improper to notice the

WORCESTER AND BIRMINGHAM CANAL,

which has been so very accurately described in the late Agricultural Survey, as to excuse the insertion of it here, with some later observations. About the year 1790, a large canal was planned to connect Birmingham at once with the deep water in the Severn which begins immediately below Worcester, and thereby to avoid the necessity of shifting goods from one river vessel to another, on account of their draught of water; this was intended to bear craft of sixty tons burthen; the ground was surveyed, and application made to Parliament. As the necessary consequence of such a measure, when completed, would naturally be considered to diminish the demand for freight in vessels of small draught calculated to go up the shoal part of the river to the Stourport Canal, it is not surprising that it should meet with great opposition. In fact, great resistance was made to the Bill, not only by canal proprietors, and boat owners, but also by persons interested in mill-streams; it was stated by a most extraordinary mode of reasoning, that the coal country would be exhausted*, by increasing the outlets for that article, and the manufactures depending on it entirely ruined. On the other hand, it was very fairly urged, that the coals were inexhaustible, and that the extending the market would increase the sale and profits, and that the vessels employed on the line of canal would not diminish the value of those fitted for a shallower navigation, as it was to be expected that this line would *increase* the regular

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trade,

* This was by the very people, or at least by their neighbours, who were so anxious some time ago to supply the metropolis with coal, to the destruction of the Newcastle Trade!

trade, without interfering with that part which already existed; or if it did, that the navigation was free to all, so that speculators in river craft might build all their future vessels of the necessary size. To settle part of this dispute, the Parliament ordered a general survey of the coal country to be taken, which shewed that it could not easily be burnt out; and the proprietors of the proposed canal, in order to obviate some other difficulties, gave up all claim to mill-streams, and undertook to trust to the Heavens for a supply of water, in conjunction with a tier of steam-engines, which should pump water from the Severn. Thus, in defiance of all opposition, expense, and difficulties, the business was at length undertaken, after a tedious solicitation for several Sessions of Parliament, and laying out nearly 15,000*l.* in those preparatory steps. The canal, in its present state, commences with a tunnel under a hill near Birmingham, and after continuing three or four miles, with a depth of six feet, crossed by bridges of sufficient elevation to permit the passage of any barges, it meets with two very deep vallies of thirty feet each, and from four to five hundred yards across; the one at Selly Oak, the other at Barnbrook End. This part of the task was extremely laborious, and is highly worthy of notice, the vallies being filled up with a wet loose marl, dug out of the canal, but which, from its want of adhesive properties, cannot be kept together, but by immense frames and props of timber. The expense of these works was enormous, as the cutting in some places was thirty feet deep; yet the proprietors spared no expense, even in the construction of additional facilities of communication; and in the Barnbrook embankment there is a waggon road below the line of canal, which is of sufficient height to admit of any load passing through. Another tunnel was obliged to be cut between Alve church, and King's Norton, upwards of a mile in length, through a bed of loose marl, full of springs. This has taken several years to execute, and will, when completely finished, deserve the praise due to a work of great expense, labour, and difficulty. The summit level of this canal, from the wharfs at Birmingham, will be sixteen

teen miles and three quarters in length, and already upon this and its collateral branches, some business is doing in the conveyance of coal, lime, and other articles of interior demand. But the fall from this summit level to the Severn is so great, that it will require a course of lockage of 450 feet perpendicular; and it appears from a late meeting of the proprietors (1811) to be determined, that when the Committee shall be satisfied that water sufficient for the supply of the canal can be procured at or near the summit level, without having recourse to the Severn, and incurring the enormous expense of steam engines, &c. they will then proceed with the locks. It had been proposed by a Mr. Woodhouse to substitute what he called a *Lift* instead of *Locks*, which occasioned much controversy between the partizans on each side of the question: it was so far settled by experiment, however, that a perpendicular lift was executed at Tardebig, near Bromsgrove, which passed twelve boats in one hour and twenty-six minutes; but this plan has at length been given up. Further improvements are in view upon a very large scale: a communication with the Droitwich Canal is intended: and it is proposed to open a cut between this, and that which is more specifically termed the Birmingham Canal, for which purpose a Bill was before the House last sessions. When this very magnificent work is completed, it will be a great improvement to Worcester, not only in usefulness, but in beauty; as it is intended to form a basin near the Sansom fields, on a level considerably above that of the river. We now proceed to the

MARKET PLACE,

which is in the High-street, with a thoroughfare into a street in the rear, extending towards the shambles. This modern addition to the comforts of the city is highly deserving of commendation, and has been opened since the year 1804. It has been attended with an expense of 5050*l.* to the Corporation, not only in its erection, but for other purposes, as they had different rights to purchase previous to concentrating the different markets in this spot; the judiciousness of which plan cannot

cannot be doubted, when we consider the disagreeable effects produced by the unlimited setting up of stalls for every article of domestic consumption, and which are not only inimical to the beauty of a place, but tend most considerably to the generation and collection of all kinds of filth. The building itself is not only convenient, but highly ornamental, having a stone front of handsome elevation, whilst the interior arrangements are both clean and commodious. The quantity of fruit sold in this market at the proper season is astonishing; even thirty years ago, Dr. Nash records, that two, and even three, tons of cherries have been sold in Worcester on a Saturday morning before five o'clock; and that in the course of a whole morning six tons have actually been sold, and this for the supply not only of the neighbouring districts, but even for Lancashire and Yorkshire. Even in later years, when there has been a great *hit* of fruit, the tonnage paid on that article alone on the Trent and Severn Canal, has amounted to 2000l. ! All other commodities are equally plentiful and good in their kind, except *fish*; but measures are now taken to remedy that deficiency, meetings having been held for the purpose of supporting a plan which will always ensure a regular supply; connected with which are several late resolutions adopted in the towns on the Severn for the preservation of the various kinds of *fish* in the several seasons. The markets are held on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday; but the latter is always the most considerable.

The *Hop Market*, being for a staple article, is also deserving of notice, standing at the junction of the High and Foregate-streets, in a central situation, and consisting of an extensive quadrangle surrounded on three sides by lofty ranges of large and regular warehouses. The trade here is so considerable, as sometimes to amount to 46,228 pockets, which was in 1801; though in 1805, it has been down so low as 11,824, averaging about 25,000 per annum: and in the present year, though the editor could not ascertain the quantity, yet so plentiful was the supply, that Berkeley's Hospital, on the opposite side of the street, was on several
market

market days occupied as a warehouse for the surplus quantity. In addition to the pleasure arising from the contemplation of an active trade, three-fifths of the produce of the surrounding plantations on an average being brought hither for sale, it is gratifying to reflect that the rents arising from these warehouses, instead of swelling corporation coffers, are applied, by the *Guardians* of the several parishes in the city, to the laudable purpose of supporting the house of industry.

The *Corn Market* requires no particular illustration. With respect to the *Fairs*, they take place on *Saturday* before *Palm Sunday*; *Saturday* in *Easter Week*; which two are principally for horses and some linen cloth; August 15, and September 19, both for cattle, horses, sheep, lambs, linen, and particularly for hops; in which last article the *latter Fair* is considered as the great annual one, at which a large quantity is always offered for sale, when there attends a great number of dealers and speculators, not only from the neighbourhood, but from all parts of the kingdom. Even this, however, does not seem to affect the subsequent markets, as was particularly noticed by the Editor of these sheets in the months of last October and November. Here also a partial fair takes place on the first Monday in December.

To accommodate such an ingress of strangers, it is evident that the

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must be not only capacious, but numerous. Of these there are, or rather have been, four posting houses, which are, the *Hop Pole* and *Star and Garter*, in Foregate-street, both of which are also frequented by the Mails, and numerous coaches; in Broad-street the *Unicorn* and *Crown*, of which the same may be also said, though the *Crown* had for a short time been shut up. To speak of their comforts and convenience is needless, as strangers are as well accommodated here as at any inns on the road; and several of them are peculiarly arranged for the reception of a very numerous and respectable class of society, the *Commercial Travellers*. The advantages resulting indeed from this mode

mode of doing business are so great, that there are several warehouses in Worcester fitted up on the same establishment; the *Rain Deer*, *Bell*, and *Hop Market Inn*. The

TRADE AND MANUFACTURES

of Worcester here require notice, as some of the places in which they are carried on deserve a very minute description. The **TRADE OR COMMERCE** of the city, generally speaking, is very considerable, arising not only from the surplus products of the county and its own manufactures, but from the great conveniences resulting from its very extended water carriage; this subject has, however, been noticed more at length in the early part of this sketch; we proceed therefore to the **MANUFACTURES**, of which, in former times, the principal was *Broad Cloth*, of which Dr. Nash (who has been copied by succeeding writers,) says, that the Society of Broad Cloth Makers of this city was incorporated in the second year of Henry VIII. from which period, during a century, the trade increased, insomuch that at one time 6000 persons were employed in it; and above twice that number in carding, spinning, &c. in the towns and villages in the vicinity. It must indeed have rapidly increased after the first incorporation; for Leland, who wrote towards the latter end of Henry's reign, says expressly, that "the wealth of the towne of Worcestre standith most by drapering; and noe towne of England at this present tyme makith so many cloaths yearly as this towne doth." Prosperity, however, seems at last to have produced the most pernicious effects; for, as Dr. Nash adds, the clothing trade is now totally gone; and it began to decline soon after the revolution, owing partly to the manufacturers, who roguishly stretched their cloths so much, that when they came to *Blackwell Hall*, or *Turkey*, they wanted much of their measure; and partly to the workmen's obstinacy, for they persisted in making a thick heavy broad cloth, at a time when the Turks chose rather a thin spongy cloth, which took a brighter dye. A spirit of jealousy seems also to have sprung up in this county, at a very early period, respecting this branch of manufacture; for we are informed, on good authority,* that in the reign

* Ruffhead's Statutes at large, Vol. II. p. 189.

reign of Henry VIII. the inhabitants of Worcester, Evesham, Droitwich, Kidderminster, and Bromsgrove, complained in a petition to that monarch, that they were much injured by farmers, husbandmen, and others, occupying themselves in the mysteries of cloth-working, &c. and an act was passed, forbidding any cloths to be made for sale in the county, except in those towns; but at the same time leaving every person at liberty to manufacture for himself and family.

The *Carpet Manufactory* has also been long on the decline, and is now no more.

Of late years some good articles have been got up in the *Cabinet making* trade, and sold to distant places. But the principal branch in which Worcester stands unrivalled, with the exception of Derby, is the

PORCELAIN MANUFACTURE,

conducted on two very extensive establishments; the one by Messrs. Flight, Barr, and Flight, near the river, to the south of St. Andrew's church, (the retail shop No. 45, High-street,) and called the Royal China Manufactory, being under the patronage of their Majesties; and the other by Messrs. Chamberlain and Co. in Diglis, seen immediately on the entrance into the city by the Gloucester road, under the patronage of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent; the retail shop of this establishment is at No. 59, High-street, facing the Hop Pole-Inn: there is also another handsome establishment in Lowesmere; and the retail shop is at No. 43, High-street, the property of Messrs. Grainger, Wood, and Wilkins.* Of all these we must, with justice, speak in praise, though there may be some points of difference, which we

* The Royal Manufactory which stands in Palace-row, opposite to St. Alban's Church, in Fish-street, was formerly a large mansion-house, and the whole is regular, extensive, and convenient. It was originally commenced in 1751, by a body of proprietors, called the Worcester Porcelain Company; but afterwards purchased in 1783 by Thomas Flight, Esq. of Hackney. The visit of their Majesties to it in 1788, for the purpose of personal examination, was attended with their unqualified approbation, which prompted them to bestow on it the present title.

The Lowesmere manufactory has been lately burnt down.

we shall briefly notice in their place. The demand from each still continues extensive both for home consumption and exportation; yet, valuable as this branch of trade is, there is no affected secrecy but by a very liberal arrangement, a stranger, on personal application at any of the retail shops, will meet with polite attention, and receive a card of admission to the respective manufactories, where a person, appointed for the purpose, attends to shew and explain every part of the process, and to direct the workmen in each department to go through the various steps of moulding, drying, glazing, burning, painting, burnishing, &c. not indeed upon the same precise article, but on specimens which had arrived at each stage of the manufacture. For this too, there is no bowing for fees; but a simple *charity box for the sick workmen* cannot escape notice on going away, which of course will be attended to by a liberal mind, when it is considered that the wages are but low, and the process in some stages highly deleterious from the effects of the *lead*, &c.

It has been noticed by a local guide, but without endeavoring, through a prejudiced locality, to support the position, that the superiority of the Worcester porcelain over all others has been asserted by an anonymous writer, who says, that "the body of the Worcester ware far exceeds every other in fineness and whiteness, in which it almost, if not altogether, equals even the finest porcelain of China itself, and is found to be much harder, and more durable, than the body of any other porcelain whatever. The glazing of it never nips, breaks off, or parts from the body, except by extreme violence, and then it discovers no brownness, such as is often seen in the ordinary Chinese, and almost always, after wear, in the other kinds of porcelain; it is also perfectly clear and transparent, which is a quality that almost peculiarly distinguishes it from the others of European manufacture." That much of this is true, we are fully convinced; but that the extreme points are correct, must indeed be denied, unless great improvements have taken place within this thirty years; for Mr. Arthur Young, in one of his tours, observes, that it is well known that

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all the other porcelain in Europe may be melted in a *Dresden* cup, whilst the latter remains unhurt; and that the Dresden cup will itself in like manner melt in an old *China* one, which, he adds, shews the amazing perfection that empire had long ago attained in every part of the art that did not depend on *design*. It is in this very article, however, that the Worcester china, like that of Derbyshire, excels all others, for at both these places a liberal encouragement is given to ingenious painters, not only in fruit, flowers, shells, fanciful or emblematical ornaments, but in landscape, history, natural history in all its branches copied from the original, &c. &c. The painting rooms of each establishment, containing each perhaps thirty artists, are extremely curious, particularly in two parts of the process; the first is that of copying a landscape *on a plane*, and drawing its outline so correctly on a *cylinder*, or perhaps a spherical body, that the proportions of perspective are still accurately preserved; the mathematician will know how to appreciate this, as any landscape, if pasted on a cylindrical surface, would have all its parts thrown out of perspective, the objects at the sides, though in the foreground, being thus placed beyond the line of the distance, and behind the point of view: the second point worthy of attention is the preparation of the colours; for, in laying them on, the visitor will observe that the tints are very different from those of the object copied, though a precise resemblance in the nicest shades will take place after each article has been in the fire; the *gold* too when laid on is completely black, and the blue of a deep chocolate colour. In this place we must not omit to notice a most ingenious self-taught youthful artist, a son of Mr. Chamberlain, some of whose works on a service preparing for the Prince Regent, being copies from historical engravings of English history, are exquisite both in the spirit of outline, and truth and brilliancy of colouring. The operations also of the burnishing rooms, each of which affords employment to about thirty ingenious females, are highly worthy of attention.

With respect to the process in general, it is almost unnecessary

to state that porcelain is a medium between glass and earthenware, and is itself in some degree vitrified; but though the mechanical process is not difficult, yet it was for a long time thought impossible to procure the materials which in China are known by the names of *kaolin* and *petunsee*. Much praise, however, is due to the late indefatigable and amiable Dr. Wall, of this city, whose chemical skill is too well known to require further celebrity; for to his persevering industry are we indebted for the discovery that England herself contains articles which, when chemically blended, are equal, or nearly equal, to those Chinese substances. These articles are fifteen or sixteen in number: they consist of a white granite from Cornwall, and a *Steatite*, or Soap-stone, from the same county, the whole quarry of which belongs to Messrs. Flight and Co. to this we must add a decomposed *Quartz* from the Pentland hills, near Edinburgh; siliceous sand from the Isle of Wight, calcined bones, &c. &c. These are all ground separately, then mixed in due proportion and calcined, when they come out

of the kiln in lumps of a porous white matter, with bluish tints; this produce is again ground with soft water, until it forms a liquid of the consistence of the thickest cream, but entirely of a pure white, and then passed through a sieve of the finest lawn, into vats, where it consolidates by means of evaporation from artificial heat of a low temperature. The hard clay thus remaining is now tempered, being again wetted, beaten with a large mallet, and trodden by human feet, when it becomes fit for the workman called the thrower, who, having received a mass of it upon his horizontal lathe, a smooth wheel of about one foot in diameter, worked by a very rapid motion, takes it in both hands, and with his fingers and thumb draws it up into a pyramid, or cone, throwing away the superfluous matter with great judgment; and then pressing it downwards whilst in motion, flattens it into what will form a plate or saucer; or if drawn up again will produce a teapot or bason. All this is the work almost of an instant; and it is indeed astonishing to see with what rapidity the shapeless mass of clay assumes new forms with no other tools than the plastic fingers

fingers of the workmen, and a small guage used to insure an equal degree of spherical or circular proportion. In this manner, a lad of fifteen, assisted by a turning boy of ten years old, will produce a complete tea equipage in three minutes, one article of each, with the exception of handles or spouts, which are put on afterwards; and all this so perfectly in shape, as only when dry to require a small degree of labour from the trimmer, every thing being brought of a requisite and equal thickness by the fingers alone. The articles now pass through the drying kilns to the trimmer; then those which require them have spouts or handles fitted on; from this they are carried to the burning kiln, where, placed on saggars, or circular plates of Staffordshire crucible clay, strewed with calcined flint in a powdered state, they are burnt, together with perhaps thirty thousand pieces of like kind. In this heat, which renders them red hot, they remain from thirty-six to forty hours; and having all the time been carefully guarded from flame, are said to be in their *biscuit* state. The *blue*, if wanted, is now laid on, after the figures have been traced on the finest articles by a pencil dipped in a proper liquid, (the coarser articles having the patterns taken from a copper-plate picture fitted on with glue,) and when dry they are immersed in the *glaze*, which is a substance like cream, composed of ground flint and white lead. Again dried in the proper temperature, (for almost every part of the process is regulated by the thermometer,) they present a colour of a pale pink, the pencil lines being of a dingy purple, and are given to another trimmer for the purpose of smoothing the *glaze*; after which they go to the glaze kiln, where they undergo a partial vitrification, being exposed to an intense heat for twenty-eight hours: this process turns the purple colour, already spoken of, into a brilliant blue. From hence they go to the sorting room; thence to the painters; again to the kiln to fix the colours; and where there is gold in the pattern, they undergo another burning after the enamel is laid on; from whence they are given to the burnishers, who complete them for sale. This division of labour includes a regular gradation of

twenty-three artists ; but some articles require more, such as cannot be thrown, but must be cast in plaister moulds : and the general earnings are from one to two guineas and a half per week : the principal painters, however, may earn more.

The GLOVE MANUFACTORY is also deserving of notice, as it is conducted on a very extensive scale, both for home consumption and exportation, those of Worcester and its vicinity being much admired. This trade is carried on by seventy masters, who give employment to about 6000 individuals, principally females, partly in Worcester, but extending to Ledbury, and many other parishes in Herefordshire.

The DISTILLERY TRADE does not appear very conspicuous to a stranger ; but it must not be entirely passed over, as it has been known to pay 700*l.* per week in duties to government : but further it is unnecessary to lose time in its examination, as there is nothing to gratify curiosity, on the scale of the works in the metropolis.

This subject naturally leads us from the employment of the industrious poor, to those objects intended for their solace and relief, the

CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS ;

the first of which to be considered is the HOUSE OF INDUSTRY, a modern building, erected on the eastern side of the city, upon a small eminence called Tallow Hill, and which cannot fail striking the stranger by the elegance of its appearance as a public object, whilst it pleases him by the distribution of its conveniences of reception, and its other advantages for its intended purpose. A slight sketch of its design and arrangement, taken from a recent local work, will answer a better purpose for imitation and as an example, than any the most picturesque description of it by a tourist, we shall therefore briefly state, that its body is 116 feet by 44, with two wings detached 30 feet from the central building. In the north wing are the kitchen, bake-house, dairy, and laundry ; in the south wing are two airy rooms for aged people, together with an apartment for stripping and washing on admission, an

even

oven for baking the cloaths of each poor person to destroy infectious particles, hot and cold baths, brew-house, infirmary, water-closets, &c. with a large reservoir on the top for a supply of water; the whole executed on a philosophical and liberal plan. The centre, which is forty feet high, contains, on the ground floor on the eastern side, a large dining hall fifty-six feet by nineteen: whilst, in the centre of the western front, are the hall, the director's rooms, the school rooms for boys, and girls, and the women's sitting room when their work is finished. This floor also has at the ends, the matron's room, store rooms, &c. The first floor contains the working rooms, with bed rooms for the matron and steward; and the floor above is divided into two ranges of apartments for the two sexes of aged and infirm. The cellars underground are airy and convenient; and the house is surrounded with yards for air and exercise, a garden, a farm-yard, and burying ground. For the erection of this extensive charity, an act was passed in the 32d of his present majesty, placing it under the direction of twelve directors; it is calculated to hold 150 persons, who are to be of the eight parishes within the city. No expense was spared in its erection, which began in 1793, and was completed in 1794; the purchase of the ground (twenty-one acres) amounting to 2273*l.* and the cost of the edifice to 7318*l.* In 1794, it was opened on the general purpose of affording relief to the widow, the orphan, and the helpless poor, connected with a system of industry as far as it might be practicable, but without consequent success in any branch of manufacture which has yet been tried; it has been recommended therefore, that the making of gloves only, should be the staple of the house, and it is to be hoped, that this finally may be successful.

From this we proceed to the INFIRMARY, which is situated in an airy position, overlooking the race ground, the river, and the whole north-western district of the county. It stands at the extreme northern limit, on the western side of the Foregate, and forms a very handsome object, its elevation being extremely ornamental. It is entirely composed of brick; the apartments lofty,

and well arranged; and all its offices upon a most judicious plan. It is praise-worthy to the city and its neighbourhood, that the expense of its erection, amounting to 6085l. was defrayed by voluntary contributions, of which 500l. was from the liberal hand of Sir John Rushout, father of the present Lord Northwick. It was begun in 1767, and finished in three years, and has since been in the receipt of 58 in-patients upon an average, with about 150 others, all under the liberal care of three physicians and three surgeons; supported by voluntary contributions and legacies, whose expenditure and management, both public and private, are conducted by a most excellently regulated system. It is pleasing to the moralist to see a public charity of this extensive and *liberal* kind, for it receives patients from all districts, thriving under judicious management; and its receipts from voluntary benevolence exceeding its expenditure, which has been as high as 1700l. per annum.

BERKELEY'S HOSPITAL has already been mentioned; it was established by Judge Berkeley, then resident at Spetchley, for the reception of twelve poor men, and stands at the lower end of the Foregate, near the Hop Market. Its centre, which stands some distance from the street, consists of a neat chapel, with a statue of the liberal founder over the entrance: the wings, which advance towards the street, and form a neat square in front, contain the apartments of the objects of charity; and the whole, though low, has yet an air of antiquity and comfort.

ST. OSWALD'S HOSPITAL is a very old establishment; its ancient state has been already noticed from Leland, in the account of the suburbs of the city. To its original endowment, much was added by Thomas Haynes, Esq. in 1622, then serjeant of the royal chapel; but it unfortunately happened a few years afterwards, that a person without any legal title whatever, had got possession of its funds, and applied them to the *charitable* purpose of supporting himself; this, however, was corrected by an application to Parliament, through the active spirit of Dr. Fell, then dean of Christ church Oxford; when a new building, containing a chapel,

was

was built, near the ancient site, leaving a surplus revenue equal to the support of sixteen poor men and twelve women. The building is of brick, with stone windows; the chapel plain, but handsome; and the whole is a creditable specimen of the attention paid in Worcester to honest poverty when in distress.

To describe all the various charitable endowments in this city, would far exceed our limits; it is indeed here sufficient to mention a few of those most extensive in their plan.

MOORE'S HOSPITAL educates and maintains ten blue coat boys of St. Martin's parish; the plan of education is simply useful; the hospital is in Silver Street, and the school-house on the north-side of St Swithin's church. 'Tis as ancient in its establishment as the time of Elizabeth, by whom it was endowed; but rebuilt in the early part of the last century.

WYATT'S HOSPITAL is in Friar Street, for six poor men.

NASH'S in New Street, for eight men and two women.

TRINITY HOSPITAL founded by Queen Elizabeth, supports twenty-nine poor females.

SHEWRING'S in the Tything, takes care of six more.

INGLETHORPE'S in Foregate, supports eight men, and one woman; and several others on a smaller scale are in the various parishes. We cannot dismiss this part of the subject, however, without noticing a modern charitable foundation, which is deserving of the greatest praise; this is the LYING-IN CHARITY, for the conducting of which the principal ladies form a committee. This is entirely supported by voluntary contribution; liberal donations have been already given; and many ladies, much to their honour, have benevolently assisted the charity by working for it. Though their funds are yet but small, it is to be hoped that they will soon be enabled to extend that relief to a much greater number of objects than can at present be attended to. The economy with which these funds have hitherto been applied, is highly praise-worthy; indeed almost incredible: during the last year they relieved 295 poor women, at an expense of only 135*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.*!

A FREE SCHOOL has also lately been established on the plan of *Mr. Lancaster*; for which, the managing committee has purchased a piece of ground in St. Martin's-gate. This building is now finished; and, by the latest report, upwards of 200 children had taken the benefit of the institution. In the last year the receipts have been 179*l.* and disbursements about 88*l.* The next objects of curiosity, are the

GAOLS;

of which, the COUNTY GAOL has already been slightly noticed whilst describing the castle. Of this, the castle-yard is spacious;* and every attention is paid to the comfort of the prisoners, that is consistent with their security, and practicable from the nature of the building. But that great room for alteration and amendment once existed here, as in all others, is evident from the statement of the benevolent Howard,† who describes the day room (called the round-house) for men and women felons, as in the middle of the area, and only fourteen feet by twelve. He adds, that the magistrates might then have been fully convinced of the impropriety, and shocking indecency, of having only one day room, if they had examined the women lately sent from that gaol to the bridewell. The horrid state of the prisoners, at that time, may be drawn from another observation, where he says, that the uneasy situation of the prisoners at night in the dungeon, had, without doubt, been one cause of their illness; for even in that strong and deep dungeon, prisoners were all night chained together, by a heavy chain, through the links in their fetters, and iron rings fastened to the floor! These evils have indeed long been remedied, but we repeat them here, in order to form a contrast with the liberal, yet secure, plan of the

NEW GAOL, which is now building on an eminence at the north end of the Foregate Street, overlooking the race ground, but perhaps rather too near to the infirmary. This is completely on the Howard plan, consisting of a central house for the gaoler, with
four

* Here the election of county members takes place.

† Howard's state of English prisons.

four wings spreading from the centre, yet detached and airy. In this the rooms will be healthy, and warmed by flues; the cellars also clean and dry; and the whole surrounded by a wall, high enough for security, but not injurious to a free circulation of the atmosphere.

The CITY GAOL is an ancient building, and unfortunately in a very crowded situation, being on the east side of Friars Street. Were it not for the unpleasant circumstances attendant upon a place of confinement, this would be worthy the investigation of a curious visitor, as part of it is very ancient, and the whole of it antique; containing many curious carvings, and exhibiting a most complete specimen of the old monastic institutions. It was indeed a house of Franciscan Friars as early as the 13th century, and was suppressed by Henry VIII. who gave it to the bailiffs and citizens of Worcester. On the eastern side, part of the old city wall may be seen; and the court in the centre is curious. Mr. Howard found room for animadversion in its management, but great improvement has taken place; yet it were better if such a building was not allowed to remain, at least for its present purposes, almost in the centre of a populous city. This is also the city bridewell. The debtor's free ward is spacious; but the accommodations for criminals ought to be much amended, which, however, is scarcely possible in the present building.

But let us now examine a more pleasing subject, and advert to the

PUBLIC AND SOCIAL AMUSEMENTS

of Worcester, which has long been considered as the most polished city in this part of the empire; insomuch, that many considerable families from the neighbouring counties, and also from Wales, have made it their winter residence. On this account it is natural that amusements will be sought after; nor are the citizens of Worcester themselves deficient in those desires which promote sociability; in fact, Worcester has become so large, that many of its respectable inhabitants, who are confined during the day by their business, have now adopted the London plan, of having

small suburban villas, for the purpose of breathing a purer air in evenings and on the Sabbath day ; and as most of these little residences are erected, and finished in their accompaniments of gardens, shrubberies, &c. with some portion of taste, the effect produced around the vicinity of the city is highly ornamental. Indeed any part of the environs is agreeable as a promenade, but the principal public walk, or mall, is in SANSOM FIELDS, for which Worcester is indebted to the taste and liberality of Sir Charles Trubshaw Withers, Knt. who has laid open to the public a very agreeable line of footway, traversing a great portion of the pasture ground of his own premises on the eastern limits of the city. At the southern end of this, his mansion, a handsome, but not very modern brick building is a considerable ornament to this part of Worcester, and the walks themselves consist of a gravelly way, shaded on each side by high embowering elms, with foot-paths leading to pleasant rambles in the surrounding fields. Whether these will be continued for the accommodation of the public is now uncertain ; as they have been advertised for sale in August of the present year. As early as 1757, these walks were in vogue ; perhaps more so than at present : and it may amuse the grand children of the *Belles* of that day, to peruse a poetical description of the bright stars of their firmament.

“ Dear Clio ! from your bow’r descend ;
Descend, celestial maid !

To these gay fields your flight extend,

The theme invites your aid.

No libel on the fair I mean ;

No saucy ballad on the dean ;

But you, ye walks of Worcester, claim the lay,

Walks, where delighted, tread the fair, the gay.

Oft let me range those meads among,

Contemplative alone :

Charm’d as I pass the virgin throng

Of nymphs, to beauty known.

Withers

Withers, to you, the walks we owe ;
 Accept the thanks our rhymes bestow.
 To *Cooksey's* hill enraptured we repair ;
Cooksey ! the muse recites, and every fair.

Mark how the golden harvest grows,
 Low to the sickle spread :
 On yon thorn'd bush, the fragrant rose
 Reclines its withered head :
 Swift, swift, the envious minutes fly,
 Soon youth and beauty fade and die.
 Then let us catch the fleeting time,
 And crop the flow'rs of life, in sweetest prime.

Can *Tempe's* fields a pleasure boast,
 Which nature sheds not here ?
 Or can the mall produce a toast,
 Than *Wylds* to fame more dear ?
 Undoubted charms the *Clements* raise,
 Oh ! give the nymphs their share of praise.
 Behold the rose ! admire it as it glows,—
 Say ! is its lustre bright as *Thorneloes* ?

Let *Stillingfleet* adorn my song,
 And *Gyles* in beauty gay ;
Cottons, to you the lines belong.
 And *Bowyers* claim the lay.
 Thus in the majesty of night,
 Shine the fix'd stars in splendor bright ;
 Here rolls a planet with enlivening gleam,
 And *Cynthia* here displays her sov'reign beam.

Come *thou*,* the *Cynthia* of the train,
 Of brightest heav'nly eye !
 Shall *thy* lov'd form unsung remain,
 And locks of jetty dye ?

Sapphœna

* This lady seems to have been the object of the writer's adoration, but unfortunately he does not name her.

Sapphœan nymph, forgive the lay,
 Charms, such as thine, we must obey.
 No silks adorn the decent comely maid;
 Beauty is hers; she asks no foreign aid."

The charming vicinity of this city affords many other walks; one is towards *Perry-wood*, which was the spot where the heat of the battle took place between the Royal and Oliverian troops; here fortunately death is no longer dealt from the thundering cannon, or the glistening sabre, but from *eyes* which can alike kill and cure!

The banks of the Severn, the Race-ground, and even the Foregate Street, with several others, are all at times genteelly frequented as promenades; and in the summer evenings an handsome imitation of the tea gardens of the metropolis, may be met with at the *Porto Bello*, on the western side of the Severn, to the north of the city. In some respects it is indeed superior to those metropolitan lounges so full of dust and imposition; for the beauty of the view of the vale of Severn, of the city enlivened with its lofty spires, graced with its light and elegant bridge, and backed by the sublime towers and pinnales of its cathedral, infinitely surpasses any thing London can boast of.

The THEATRE must not be slightly passed over. It is not indeed very large, but now extremely commodious, particularly when we recollect that the ancient show-room for the sock and buskin, was nothing more than a stable belonging to an inn in the High Street, since pulled down for the new market. In this stable, however, have some of our best performers made their entrees and their exits, even our great tragic queen not excepted. The increasing taste and opulence of the inhabitants in 1780, induced twenty individuals to form a tontine of 50*l.* shares, with which a new and regular theatre was erected in Angel Street, of a convenient size, 66 feet by 36; the subscribers being entitled to legal interest and a silver ticket. During the proper season it supports performances four times a week.

ASSEM-

ASSEMBLIES at the town-hall under the fostering protection of the nobility and gentry; PRIVATE CONCERTS at the Hop-Pole, principally supported by the inhabitants; and *sometimes* we believe MASQUERADES; all these tend to keep up a social connexion between the various classes of society in the city and vicinity.

CLUBS too are not forgotten here; two, being more of a public nature than the rest, deserve particular notice. One of these is, or was, a *Constitution Club*, founded at the time of the rebellion in 1745;* and of later date, a Worcester and Worcestershire society, formed in honour of the restoration.

THE RACES also draw here the usual quantity of rank and beauty, and of strangers of all orders in society; but further reference must be made to the *Calendar*.

Nor are the more domesticated enjoyments arising from literature neglected. Here is a PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION LIBRARY of modern establishment in 1790, under the guidance of a president and committee, assisted by a librarian, who attends between breakfast and dinner. The subscribers amount to about 200, and as there are 3700 volumes which are added to every year, each person is sure of a sufficient variety. The terms are easy, being only two guineas for a transferable ticket, and fifteen shillings annually: and the regulations are liberal, as strangers, and non-residents, are admitted if introduced by a subscriber.

Like all other parts of the empire, this city has considerably increased in its

POPULATION

since the days of Elizabeth, when the number of resident families amounted only to 1025 which, even at the more than average calculation of six to a family, would not be more than 6150 souls. In the civil wars the inhabitants were 7176 in number, but augmented by a temporary garrison of 2007. In 1779, the city and suburbs contained 2449 houses, and the population was 13,104; but the

* Some well written lines addressed to this club, may be seen in the *Gent. Mag.* Vol. XVIII. p. 277.

the subsequent increase of houses has since been estimated at 2237. By the parliamentary returns in 1801, the number of males in the nine parishes, exclusive of St. Michael and St. John, part of St. Peter's and Tything of Whitstane, amounted to 4855; of females, 6336; making a total of 11,191; which, with the exceptions added, would have been 12,792. But the returns of the present year shew an increase of 2420.

<i>Parishes.</i>	<i>Houses.</i>	<i>Families.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
St. Alban's.....	48.....	70.....	104.....	159.....	263
St. Clement	189.....	248.....	434	596.....	1030
St. Peter.....	312.....	371.....	661.....	896.....	1557
St. Swithin.....	189.....	262.....	487.....	590.....	1077
St. Martin.....	372.....	598.....	935.....	1096.....	2031
St. Michael.....	325.....	381.....	827.....	1263.....	2039
All Saints	398.....	426.....	999.....	1241.....	2240
St. Andrew.....	290.....	419.....	822.....	1090.....	1912
St. Helen.....	276.....	352.....	596.....	816.....	1412
	2399	3127	5865	7746	13611

From this, it appears that the females exceed the males by 1884: the uninhabited houses are 64; 38 are building: but even this calculation makes no allowance for Sidbury and other parts which form part of Worcester, though not actually within the limits of the city; so that perhaps 15000, for the whole, is not too large an assumption.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.

Worcester has been incorporated since the reign of Henry I. who granted many privileges; but it was not until the 45th of Henry III. that a charter was granted, establishing its corporate power in the hands of two bailiffs, instead of a constable who had been their former magistrate; a dignity, however, very different from that of a constable in latter days. Through the succeeding reigns, privileges were granted at various times; and in the 19th of James I, (1620) the jurisdiction of a mayor was first establish-

ed. Charles II. obtained in 1684, a surrender of the corporate rights, which, however, were soon after restored: since which time this city has been honoured with several marks of royal favour, though not immediately of additional privileges.

PARLIAMENTARY HISTORY

is always, in a great measure, connected with corporate rights, it is necessary therefore, to add, that this corporation consists of a mayor, six aldermen, twenty-four common-council-men, and forty-eight assistants; and that those last two bodies always elect the mayor and aldermen out of the common-council. But then the right of election of representatives, is not confined to these, but extends to upwards of 2000 citizens who are free by birth, servitude, or redemption; and the sheriff is returning officer. In this city the popular character has always shewn itself superior to venal attempts, though even these may in some instances have been partly successful; we shall, however, merely state a few facts to shew the present state of parties, without any animadversion.

On the death of Mr. Boulton, one of their representatives in 1773, Sir Watkin Lewes was brought forward by the independent party, but was lowest on the poll; and a petition to the house, ended in both Mr. Rous and Sir Watkin being declared unduly elected. Several other attempts were made in his favour; but all unsuccessful. In 1774, the ladies of Worcester participating in the independent exertions of their spouses, presented to Lady Lewes, a superb piece of plate, adorned with many curious emblematical devices, and a motto in an oval compartment, "firm in the glorious enterprize." To this was subjoined, "the ladies of Worcester present to Lady Lewes this mark of their esteem, in acknowledgment of the noble and disinterested efforts of Sir Watkin Lewes, to destroy the influence of bribery and corruption in the election of members, and particularly to restore to the citizens of Worcester their rights and privileges."

Since 1780, the representatives have been Rous, Ward, Smith, Wigley, and Lechmere; until 1806, when Mr. Roberts, the *old* member,

member, polled 856; Colonel Bromley, said to be supported by the corporation interest, 563; and Mr. Gordon, on the independent side, as it was called, 318. On a petition, however, Col. B. accepted the Chiltern Hundreds, by which a new election became necessary, when Mr. Gordon polled 704, and his antagonist Mr. Attersol, only 418.

In 1807 there was no contest.

Distinguished as this city has been throughout the annals of the empire, it may well be expected that its

BIOGRAPHY

may afford many instances of public spirit and of private worth; a short analysis, therefore, may not be unacceptable.

HEMINGUS is the first of whom we find mention, and all subsequent local historians have been much indebted to his researches into the early history of this city. Of his life, indeed, little is known that is interesting; but those who wish to consult his works, will find an edition of them published under the inspection of Hearne, the famous antiquary.

WILLIAM OF WORCESTER, another monk, was author of a very curious itinerary, which has been of considerable service in assisting investigation, and illustrating difficulties in the earlier historians.

SENATUS BRAYONIUS, was author of the legends of St. Oswald and St. Wolstan, and of several other pieces; in all of which, according to the fashion of the times, there is much sound sense, accompanied by more absurdity.

FLORENCE OF WORCESTER, is another *monk*, (for in them was concentrated all the learning of early times, notwithstanding their general ignorance and sloth) who has afforded much pleasure and information, by his valuable selections from the Saxon Chronicles.

RICHARD SMITH, a native of Worcester in the fifteenth century, but of uncertain parentage, is called the greatest pillar for the Roman Catholic church of his time.* He was fellow of Merton, College

* Wood's Athenæ.

College Oxford, in 1527; but being forced to resign in the reign of Edward VI. he went to Louvaine, and became public professor of divinity, after being received as a kind of martyr in the cause. The accession of Mary restored him to his fellowship, and he became Chaplain to the Queen, and Canon of Christ Church. This is the priest who preached the sermon at the death of Ridley and Cranmer, already mentioned; and he was also an evidence against Cranmer, who had been one of his best friends! Such a man was a useful tool at that period, as he is described by his party, as one of the best schoolmen of his time, a subtle disputant, and admirably well read in the Fathers and Councils; so much so indeed, that he disputed with success in the Divinity school against the great Peter Martyr, as the Catholic writers assert; but the Protestant writers of that day, affirm that he was more skilled in Sophistry than Divinity, and that he was non-plussed several times in his debate with Martyr. Wood adds, that he was a *goggle-eyed* fellow, and very inconstant in his opinion.

EDWARD KELLY, who appears also to have borne the name of TALBOT, was born in Worcester at four o'clock in the afternoon, on the 1st of August, 1555: and this nativity being calculated, it was declared, that he was born to be a man of clear understanding, quick apprehension, of an excellent wit, and of great propensity to philosophical studies, and the mysteries of nature. Notwithstanding this fine prediction, it seems, that, though sent to Oxford for education, his mind was so unsettled, that he marched off from that university, and in his rambles in Lancashire, "committing certain foul matters" lost both his ears at Lancaster, "and about that time caused *by his incantations* a poor man, that had been buried in the yard belonging to Low Church, near to Wilton, in the Dale, to be taken out of his grave, *and to answer to such questions that he then proposed to him!*" About that period he became acquainted with Dr. John Dee, a native of Upton, the famous mathematician and conjuror, and "it is reported by a certain Rosycrucian, that they were so strangely fortunate,

as to find a very large quantity of the *Elixir* in some part of the ruins of Glastonbury Abbey, which was so incredibly rich in virtue, that they lost much in making projection by way of trial, before they found out the height of that medicine."—"In the beginning of 1583, Dr. John Dee having contracted with certain spirits to set and converse with him, he appointed his friend Kelly to be his *seer*, or *stryer*, or *speculator*; that is, to take notice what the spirits said, and to tell it to Dee while he wrote down what was dictated." This took place whilst these friends were on the continent, and Mr. Kelly seems to have played his part with some skill as well as rascality; for Fuller tells us *, "a spirit giving them advice how to proceed in their mystical discoveries, and enjoining them by way of preparatory qualification be the same, they should enjoy their wives in common; though hoggling hereat at first, they resolved to submit thereunto, because the lawgiver might dispense with his laws in matters of so high a nature."

After this juggling trick, it appears, that "at Trebona, Kelly made projection with one small grain of the *Elixir*, upon one ounce and one quarter of common mercury, and it produced almost an ounce of pure gold!"—"At another time he made projection upon a piece of metal cut out of a warming-pan, and without his touching or handling it, or melting the metal, only warming it in the fire, the *Elixir* being put thereto, it was transmuted into pure gold. The same warming-pan and pure gold were sent to Queen Elizabeth, by her ambassador, the Lord Willoughby, then residing at Prague, that by fitting the piece with the place where it was cut out, it might exactly appear to be part of the said warming-pan!" Weaver tells us, that "Queen Elizabeth," (convinced no doubt by the exhibition of the warming-pan) "sent very secretly Captain Peter Gwynne, with some others, to persuade Kelly to return to his native country, which he was willing to do; and thinking to escape away in the night by stealth, as he was clambering over a wall in his own house, in Prague,

* Fuller's Worthies.

Prague, (which bears his name to this day, and which was an old sanctuary) he fell down from the battlements, broke his legs, and bruised his body, of which hurts within a while after he died."--- And thus much for the only conjuror which Worcester has produced.

THOMAS WEAVER is stated by Wood, in his *Athenæ*, to have applied his poetical genius to academical learning, in Christ Church, Oxford, in 1633; at the age of seventeen, he took the degrees of Arts, and completed master in 1640, about which time he was made one of the petty canons of the cathedral of his native place, from which, however, he was ejected by the parliamentary visitors in 1648. After this he shifted from place to place, and lived upon his wits, a specimen of whose produce he published to the world, called "Songs and Poems of Love and Drollery." In these there was a ballad, "Zeal Overheated, or a relation of a lamentable Fire which happened in Oxon, in a religious brother's shop; to the tune of Chevy Chase." This song, however, seems to have warmed the opposite party against him, and the whole collection, therefore, were looked upon by the godly men of those times, as seditious, and libellous against the government; he was therefore imprisoned, and afterwards tried for his life, in those *days of liberty*. His book being produced as evidence against him, the judge read some pages, and then addressed the court; "Gentlemen, the person that we have here before us is a scholar and a man of wit. Our forefathers had learning so much in honour, that they enacted, that those that could but as much as read, should never be hanged unless for some great crime; and shall we respect it so little as to put to death a man of parts? I must tell you, I should be very unwilling to be the person that should condemn him, and yet I must be forced to do it, if the jury bring him in guilty," &c. In consequence of this charge he was set at liberty, and ever after was highly valued by this upright and generous judge.

The MARQUIS OF WORCESTER may be considered as deserving a place here, from his writings; but it is enough to say,

that Lord Orford is of a different opinion *, for he observes, that this nobleman appears in a very different light in his public character, and in that of an author; in the former he was an active zealot; in the latter, a fantastic projector, and mechanic; in both very credulous: his political character is so remarkable, that it makes even his whimsicalness as a writer less extraordinary. In short, this was the famous Earl of Glamorgan, so created by Charles I. while heir apparent to the marquise of Worcester. He was a bigoted Catholic; but in times when that was no discommendation at court, and where it grew a merit. He died soon after the Restoration, in 1667, after he had published an amazing piece of folly, "a Century of the names and scantlings of such inventions as at present I can call to mind to have tried and perfected (my former notes being lost.)" Among other silly things, this taught "how to use all the senses for each other; to talk by *colours*; and to read by the taste;" one of these, indeed, is now done by the telegraphic naval signals; as for the latter, it can only refer to the *literary* gingerbread of Bartholomew fair. This taught also "how to do and prevent the same thing; *how to cheat with dice*; and how to fly!" We must not forget, however, that this farrago of nonsense contains also the first principles of the modern Steam Engine, that powerful assistant to man.

JOHN LORD SOMERS, that great and good man, was a native of this city; being born in 1650, in a house which then stood near the east end of the cathedral. Educated to the bar, he gained great celebrity as counsel for the imprisoned bishops in the reign of James II. which, added to his other qualifications, advanced him to the high rank of Lord Chancellor at the Revolution. It was fortunate for him, as Lord Orford observes, that the momentous times, in which he lived, gave him opportunities of displaying the extent of his capacity, and the patriotism of his heart; opportunities as little sought, on account of the former, as they were honestly courted and pursued for the latter. It was

no

* Walpole's Works, Vol. I. p. 371.

no inglorious part of this great character's life, that, when removed from the administration, his labours were still dedicated to the service of the government, and of his country. The union of the two kingdoms was projected too by him; and it was not to his disgrace, that the princess, whose prejudices he had conquered, and whose esteem he had gained, offered him up as one of the first sacrifices on the altar of the Treaty of Utrecht. As a writer he shone unrivalled; and it is much to be lamented, that sixty volumes of his MSS. were burnt at Lincoln's Inn, in 1752. It would go beyond our limits, however, to record even what he has left.

THOMAS WHITE, the architect, already mentioned as the builder of the Guildhall, must be noticed here, as an encouragement to youthful genius. Whilst apprentice to a statuary, in the metropolis, he attracted the notice of Sir Christopher Wren, who took him to Rome as his assistant in measuring St. Peter's, and afterwards modelling the cathedral of St. Paul's. His love for his native city was so great, that Sir Christopher could not persuade him to remain in London; to Worcester he retired to enjoy a small patrimonial estate, and here he also exercised his talents, not only as an architect, but as a statuary, and some elegant specimens of his skill in that art may be seen in several of the churches and other buildings. He died in 1738.

DOCTOR JOHN WALL, an eminent physician, gifted with an elegant genius, adorned by conspicuous worth, and accompanied by universal esteem, has already been noticed as the *chemical* founder of Worcester's most elaborate manufactures. To him also is Malvern much indebted for that celebrity which has raised it to its present respectability. He was an excellent painter; some specimens of his skill may be seen at Hagley, and, if we mistake not, at Madresfield.

Many other worthies are claimed by Worcester, whose names only we have space to recapitulate; of these DR. THOMAS was remarkable for his skill in county antiquities, and his works will here be often quoted; DR. HICKES, who was Dean of Wor-

cester, also pursued the same studies with great success; Dr. SANDYS will be noticed under the head of *Ombersley*; *Bishops PRIDEAUX*, GAUDEN, and STILLINGFLEET, require not our humble meed of approbation to immortalize their names; nor is it degrading to such elevated characters, to mention along with them a humbler son of fame, Mr. JOHN DOUGHARTY, who, as a mathematical instructor, lived here for half a century in high credit, and left behind him two professional tracts, in order to render himself useful even beyond the grave.

So many particulars respecting Worcester and its neighbourhood, have already been mentioned in our notice of various events, that but little remains to be detailed of its

LOCAL HISTORY.

It must be confessed, indeed, that few towns in England, if any, have suffered more, or oftener, from war, &c. than this. Even as early as the days of Hardicanute, in 1041, the public spirit of the inhabitants in resisting oppression, brought on them the displeasure of that usurper, for their refusal to pay the *Danegelt*, so that he ordered them all to be put to the sword, and the city to be destroyed; all of which would have taken place, had not the inhabitants fled to the island of *Bevere*, leaving their habitations a prey to the soldiery. It was soon rebuilt, however, and flourished under the Norman Dynasty, but was twice burnt down soon after, in 1113, and in 1133. Six years afterwards, it was sacked and burnt by the troops of the Empress Maud, during her contests with King Stephen, in support of the claim of her son, afterwards Henry II. In 1149, it had the hard fate of being taken and burnt by the opposite party; but in 1157, Henry II. was crowned, the third time, in its cathedral*. It is needless to enumerate the various royal visits which took place in the succeeding century; but we are told, that in 1263†, the barons under the command of the Earl of Derby, and then in rebellion, took it after several assaults, and plundered it with great violence,

* Huntingdon's Annals.

† Matthew of Westminster.

tence, putting even some of the Jewish inhabitants to the sword. It was at Worcester, in 1265, that the young and gallant Edward first raised the standard of loyalty in defence of his father, Henry III. previous to the battle of Evesham; and so great was his grateful attachment to the citizens, after his accession to the throne, that he made many visits, and held a parliament here.

About the middle of the fourteenth century, Worcester suffered much from pestilences; and in 1401, it was exposed to the ravages of Owen Glendwr's army. In 1459, it is said that Henry VI. came to Worcester, after the battle of Bloreheath, and from hence sent out his offers of pardon; but *Stow* contradicts *Holinshed*, in this particular, and says, that he went to Gloucester; in which he is copied by *Rapin*. It appears, that after the accession of Henry VII. several of the citizens of Worcester were beheaded at the High Cross; and it is evident, that the city must have been partial to the deceased monarch, as there was a fine of 500 marks levied for its redemption.

In 1574, Queen Elizabeth, in her progresses, came to Worcester, and was received with all the ceremonials of that time. She was met* at Salt-lane in the evening by the bailiffs and brethren in scarlet; the rest of the twenty-four in murrey ingrain gowus; an oration to welcome her majesty was spoken. Over against St. Nicholas church-yard she stopped her horse, and looked towards the church; the people then cried out, "God save your Grace!" She, with a heartiness that did her honour, threw up her cap and said, "I say, God save you all, my good people!" At the Grass Cross there was a pageant; one also at St. Helens, &c.

In 1637, during the civil wars, this city suffered much from a dreadful pestilence, and in six months lost no less than 1551 of its inhabitants. Soon after it became a frequent object of contention with the two parties.

In 1642, we are told by Clarendon,† that within three or four

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days

* Nash's Survey.

† Clarendon's History, Vol. II. 19.

days after the king's removal from Nottingham, the Earl of Essex, with his whole army, removed from Northampton, and marched towards Worcester: of which his majesty had no sooner intelligence, than he sent Prince Rupert, with the greatest part of the horse, on the other side of Severn towards that city. The Prince (after some small disasters in his march, occasioned by the insurrection of the country people, who were encouraged by the agents for the Parliament, and seconded by the officers of the militia,) came safe with his charge to Worcester, where he had been a very few hours, when a strong party of horse and dragoons being sent by the Earl of Essex, under the command of Nathaniel Fiennes, son to the Lord Say, came to surprise the town, which was open enough to have been entered in many places, though in some it still had the old decayed wall; and at the most usual and frequented entrances into the city, weak and rotten gates to be shut, but without either lock or bolt. Yet this commander, coming early in the morning, (when the small guard which had watched, concluding all to be secure, were gone to rest,) and being within musket shot of the gate before he was discovered, finding that weak gate shut, or rather *closed*, against him, and not that quick appearance of a party within the town as he had promised himself, without doing any harm retired in great disorder, and with so much haste, that the wearied horse, sent out presently to attack him, could not overtake any of his train; so that when Prince Rupert came thither they did not conceive any considerable part of the enemy to be near. This seems, unfortunately for the Royalists, to have given them a false confidence; so that Prince Rupert, and his brother Maurice, amused themselves and their soldiery at shooting at the parliamentary leaders in effigy, in Pitchcroft meadows; but the republican army being reinforced, surrounded the city on all sides, and attacked the royal army by surprize, which, being obliged to retire into Worcester, was followed by the assailants, under the command of Colonels Sandys and Austin, when a bloody contest took place in the streets. In this case, both sides claimed the victory; and it
appears

appears that the royal army did not retire until midnight from the city, which was immediately entered next day, and occupied by the Earl of Essex and his troops, as the republican writers assert; but Clarendon only slightly hints at the surprise, and says nothing of the Prince's conduct except to claim the victory; for he adds, that Prince Rupert the same night, *after his victory*, finding the gross of the rebel army to be within five or six miles, against which the city was in no degree tenable, though all the king's foot had been there, retired from Worcester on the Welch side of the river, without any disturbance, unto his quarters near Shrewsbury, and with all his prisoners, Colonel Sandys only excepted, whom he left to die of his wounds there; the Earl of Essex being so much startled with this late defeat, that he advanced not in two days after; and then being surely informed that he should find no resistance, he entered with his army into Worcester, using great severity to the citizens, who had been eminently inclined to the king's service, and sending the principal of them prisoners to London. Charles, indeed, seems to have found great assistance from this loyal city; and it is again mentioned by the historian already quoted, that shortly after this affair of Prince Rupert's, he rested some days at Worcester; and by the loyalty of that good town, and the affection of the gentry of that county, who retired thither for their security, he procured both shoes and stockings, and money for his soldiers. Another attack was made shortly afterwards, Sir William Waller* having marched there, where his conquests met some stop; for though the town was not so strong, nor the armed garrison so great as Hereford, (where he had been successful,) nor one officer in it of more experience than he had acquired during that contest, yet the inhabitants had the courage to resolve not to admit any summons or messenger from him; and when his *Drum*, notwithstanding the signs made from the walls not to approach, persisted in refusing to return without delivering the message, they fired at and killed him. The republican commander was so enraged at this, that to avenge

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the

* Clarendon, Vol. II. p. 180.

the insult, he immediately marched with his whole force towards the town, there being nothing but an old gate, without bridge or work before it to oppose him; but the citizens and garrison received him with such steadiness, that he retired, after losing some officers and about twenty men. Another siege took place in 1642, when it surrendered to Sir John Byron; and again in 1646 to Sir William Brereton; and though it may seem strange that a place so often besieged was not totally destroyed, that idea will be done away by an extract from an old journal, shewing *all* the harm done in twenty-four hours, except a heavy *war of words*.

“ All quiet this day except about twelve o'clock, the besiegers shot *four* pieces into the town, and killed a poor man and his wife in bed in the Trinity. Railing language passed between the guards on both sides; the besiegers calling the townsmen ‘ Washington’s bastards, (he was then governor,) Russel’s apes, &c. and the besieged calling their enemy traitors, bad them go preach in a crab tree, &c. And on another occasion ‘ the besiegers tried a stratagem to draw the cows which lay under the walls to them, by tying one of their own cows to a stake, and making a fire round her, set the cow a roaring, which they thought would bring all the city cows to them, but it did not succeed!’ The various circumstances, antecedent to the unfortunate battle of Worcester, may be seen in any History of England; it is only necessary here to say, that his majesty (Charles II.) having arrived from the north on the 22d of August, 1651,* entered the city of Worcester, and was acknowledged by the citizens and by all the authorities, as king; after which he issued a proclamation, offering pardon, and summoning the nobility and gentry to his assistance. As the further particulars are more highly interesting, we copy them from a contemporary but scarce tract, called *Boscobel*.

Tuesday, the 26th of August, was the rendezvous in Pitchcroft, of such loyal subjects as came unto his Majesty’s aid, in pursuance

* Vide Ibbetson’s Proceedings in Parliament, &c.

pursuance of his before-mentioned decree and summons : here appeared, Francis Lord Talbot, afterwards Earl of Shrewsbury, with about sixty horse ; Mr. Mervin Touchet, his lieutenant-colonel ; Sir John Packington ; Sir Walter Blount ; Sir Ralph Clare ; Sir Rowland Berkeley ; Sir John Winford ; Mr. Ralph Sheldon of Beoly ; Mr. John Washburn of Witchinford, with forty horse ; Mr. Thomas Hornyold of Blackmore Park ; with forty horse ; Mr. William Seldon of Finstall ; Mr. Thomas Acton ; Captain Benbow ; Mr. Robert Blount of Kenswick ; Mr. Robert Wigmore of Lucton ; Mr. Edward Pennell the elder ; Captain Kingston ; Mr. Peter Blount ; Mr. Walter Walsh ; Mr. Charles Walsh ; Mr. William Dansey ; Mr. Francis Knotsford ; Mr. George Chambers, &c. with divers others, who were honoured and encouraged by his majesty's presence ; notwithstanding which access, the number of his army, both English and Scots, was conceived not to exceed 12,000 men, viz. 10,000 Scots, and about 2000 English ; and these too not excellently armed, nor plentifully stored with ammunition. Meantime Cromwell (that grand patron of sectaries,) had amassed together a numerous body of rebels, commanded by himself in chief, and by the Lord Grey of Groby, Fleetwood, and Lambert, under him, consisting of above 30,000 men, (being generally the scum and froth of the whole kingdom,) one part of which were sectaries, who, through a fanatic zeal, were become devotees to this great idol ; the other part seduced persons, who, either by force or fear, were unfortunately made actors or participants in this so horrible and fatal a tragedy.

Thus then began the pickeerings to the grand engagement ; Major General Massey, with a commanded party, being sent by his Majesty to secure the bridge and pass at Upton-upon-Severn, seven miles below Worcester, on Thursday the 28th of August, Lambert, with a far greater number of rebels, attacked him, and after some dispute gained the pass, the river being then fordable : yet the major-general behaved himself very gallantly, received a shot in the hand from some musqueteers the enemy had conveyed into the church, and retreated in good order to Worcester.

During

During this encounter, Cromwell himself (whose head quarter was the night before at Pershore,) advanced to Stoughton, within four miles of the city, on the south side, himself quartered that night at Mr. Simon's house at White Lady Aston; and a party of his horse faced the city that evening.

The next day, (August the 29th,) *Sultan Oliver* appeared with a great body of horse and foot on Red Hill, within a mile of Worcester, where he had made a *bonne mine*, but attempted nothing; and that night part of his army quartered at Judge Berkeley's house at Speachley. The same day it was resolved by his Majesty, at a council of war, to give the grand rebel a *Camisado*, by beating up his quarters that night with 1500 select horse and foot, commanded by Lieutenant-General Middleton, and Sir William Keyth; all of them wearing their shirts over their armour for distinction; which accordingly was attempted, and might in all probability have been successful, had not the design been most traitorously discovered to the rebels by one Guise, a taylor in the town, and a notorious sectary, who was hanged the day following as the just reward of his treachery: in this action Major Knox was slain, and some few taken prisoners by the enemy. A considerable party of the rebels, commanded by Colonel Fleetwood, Colonel Richard Ingoldsby, (who since became a real convert, and was created Knight of the Bath at his Majesty's coronation,) Colonel Goff, and Colonel Gibbons, being got over the Severn at Upton, marched next day to Powick town, where they made a halt; for Powick bridge (lying upon the river Team, between Powick town and Worcester,) was guarded by a brigade of his Majesty's horse and foot, commanded by Major General Robert Montgomery, and Colonel George Keyth.

The fatal 3d of September being come, his Majesty this day (holding a council of war upon the top of the College Church steeple, the better to discover the enemy's posture,) observed some firing at Powick; and Cromwell making a bridge of boats over Severn, under Bunshill, about a mile below the city towards Team mouth; his Majesty presently goes down, commands all

to their arms, and marches in person to Powick bridge, to give orders as well for maintaining that bridge, as for opposing the making the other of boats, and hasted back to his army in the city.

Soon after his Majesty was gone from Powick bridge, the enemy assaulted it furiously, which was well defended by Montgomery, till himself was dangerously wounded, and his ammunition spent; so that he was forced to make a disorderly retreat into Worcester, leaving Colonel Keyth a prisoner at the bridge. At the same time Cromwell had with much celerity finished his bridge of boats and planks over the main river, without any considerable opposition; saving that Colonel Piscotty, with about 300 Highlanders, performed as much therein as could be expected from a handful of men fighting against great numbers: by this means Oliver held communication with those of his party at Powick bridge; and when he had marched over a considerable number of his men, (said, in his hypocritical way,) "the Lord of Hosts be with you," and returned himself to raise a battery of great guns against the Fort Royal on the south side of the city.

His Majesty being returned from Powick bridge, marched with the Duke of Buckingham, Lord Grandison, and some other of his cavalry, through the city, and out at Sudbury gate by the Fort Royal, where the rebel's great shot came frequently near his sacred person.

At this time Cromwell was settled in an advantageous post at Perrywood, within a mile of the city, swelling with pride, and confident in the numbers of his men, having besides raised a breast-work at the cockshoot of the wood for his greater security; but Duke Hamilton, with his own troops, and some Highlanders, Sir Alexander Forbes with his regiment of foot, and divers English lords and gentlemen volunteers, by his Majesty's command and encouragement, engaged him, and did great execution upon his best men, forced the *great Sultan* (as the Rhodians in like case did the Turk) to retreat with his *Janizaries*, and his Majesty

was once as absolute master of his great guns, as he ought to have been of the whole land.

Here his Majesty gave an incomparable example of valour to the rest, by charging in person, which the Highlanders, especially, imitated in a great measure, fighting with the butt end of their muskets when their ammunition was spent; but new supplies of rebels being continually poured upon them; and the main body of Scotch horse not coming up in due time from the town to his Majesty's relief, his army was forced to retreat in at the Sudbury gate in much disorder.

In this action Duke Hamilton (who fought valiantly,) had his horse killed under him, and he was himself mortally wounded, of which he died in a few days; and many of his foot, (consisting much of gentlemen, and diverse of his own name,) were slain: Sir John Douglass received his death wound: and Sir Alexander Forbes (who was the first knight the king made in Scotland, and commanded the Fort Royal there,) was shot through both the calves of his legs, lay in the wood all night, and was brought prisoner to Worcester next day. The rebels in this encounter had great advantages, as well in their number, as by fighting both with horse and foot against his Majesty's foot only, the greatest part of his horse being wedged up in the town. And when the foot were defeated, a part of his Majesty's horse fought afterwards against both the enemy's horse and foot upon great disadvantage: and as they had few persons of condition among them to lose, so no rebels, but Quarter Master General Moseley, and one Captain Jones, were worth taking notice of to be slain in this battle.

At Sudbury gate, (I know not whether by accident, or on purpose,) a cart laden with ammunition was overthrown and lay across the passage, one of the oxen that drew it being there killed, so that his Majesty could not ride into the town, but was forced to dismount and so come in on foot. The rebels soon after stormed the Fort Royal, (the fortifications whereof were not perfected,)

fectcd,) and put all the Scots they found there to the sword. In the Friars-street his Majesty put off his armour, (which was heavy and troublesome to him,) and took a fresh horse; and then perceiving many of his foot soldiers began to throw down their arms and decline fighting, he rode up among them, sometimes with his hat in his hand, entreating them to stand to their arms, and fight like men; otherwhiles encouraging them, alledging the goodness and justice of the cause they fought for; but seeing himself not able to prevail, said, "I had rather you would shoot me, than keep me alive to see the sad consequences of this fatal day." So deep a sense had his prophetic soul of the miseries of his beloved country, even in the midst of his own danger.

During this hot engagement at Perrywood and Red Hill, the rebels on the other side of the water possessed themselves of St. John's; and a brigade of his Majesty's foot which were there, under the command of M. Gen. Dalziel, without any great resistance, laid down their arms, and craved quarter. When some of the enemy were entered, and entering the town both at the Key, Castle Hill, and Sudbury gate, without any conditions: the Earl of Cleveland, and some others, rallied what force they could, (though inconsiderable to the rebels' numbers,) and charged the enemy very gallantly both in Sudbury-street and High-street, where Sir James Hamilton and Captain Kemble were desperately wounded, and others slain; yet this action did much secure his Majesty's march out at St. Martin's gate, who had otherwise been in danger of being taken in the town. About the same time the Earl of Rothes, Sir William Hamilton, and Colonel Drummond, with a party of Scots, maintained the Castle hill with much resolution, till such time as conditions were agreed on for quarter.

Lastly some of his Majesty's English army valiantly opposed the rebels at the Town-hall, where Mr. Coningsby, Colles, and some others, were slain: Mr. John Rumney, Mr. Charles Wells, and others, taken prisoners; so that the rebels having in the end subdued all their opponents, fell to plundering the city unmercifully,

fully, few or none of the citizens escaping, but such as were of the fanatic party.

When his Majesty saw no hope of rallying his thus discomfited foot, he marched out of Worcester at St. Martin's gate (the Foregate being mured up,) about six of the clock in the evening, with his main body of horse, as then commanded by General David Lesley, but were now in some confusion. The Lord St. Clare, with diverse of the Scottish nobility and gentry, were taken prisoners in the town; and the foot soldiers (consisting most of Scots,) were almost all either slain or taken; and such of them (who in the battle escaped death,) lived but longer to die for the most part more miserably; many of them being afterward knocked on the head by country people; some bought and sold like slaves for a small price; others went begging up and down, till charity failing them, their necessities brought upon them diseases, and diseases, death.

Before his Majesty was come to Barbon's bridge, about half a mile out of Worcester, he made several stands, faced about, and desired the Duke of Buckingham, Lord Wilmot, and others of his commanders, that they might rally and try the fortune of war once more; but at the bridge a serious consultation was held; and then perceiving many of the troopers to throw off their arms and shift for themselves, they were all of opinion the day was irrecoverably lost, and that their only remaining work was to save the king from those ravenous wolves and regicides; whereupon his Majesty, by advice of his council, resolved to march with all speed for Scotland. Immediately after this result, the Duke asked the Lord Talbot (being of that country,) if he could direct the way northward? His Lordship answered, that he had one Richard Walker in his troop that knew the way well; who was accordingly called to be the guide, and performed that duty for some miles; but being come to Kinver Heath, not far from Kederminster, and day light being gone, Walker was at a puzzle in the way. Here his Majesty made a stand, and consulted with the Duke, Earl of Derby, Lord Wilmot, &c. to what place he might march

march at least to take some hours' rest; the Earl of Derby told his Majesty, that in his flight from *Wigan* to *Worcester*, he had met with a perfect honest man, and a great convenience of concealment at *Boscobel-house*, but withal acquainted the king, it was a recusant's house; and it was suggested, that those people (being accustomed to [persecution and searches,]) were most likely to have the readiest means and safest contrivances to preserve him; his Majesty therefore inclined to go thither.

The Lord Talbot being made acquainted therewith, and finding Walker dubious of the way, called for Mr. Charles Giffard (a faithful subject, and of the ancient family of *Chillington*) to be his Majesty's conductor, which office Mr. Giffard willingly undertook, having one Yates, a servant, with him, very expert in the ways of that country; and being come near *Sturbridge*, it was under consideration, whether his Majesty should march through that town or no, and resolved in the affirmative, and that all about his person should speak French, to prevent any discovery of his Majesty's presence. Mean while General Lesley, with the Scottish horse, had in the close of the evening taken the more direct way northward, by *Newport*, his Majesty being left, only attended by the Duke of Buckingham, Earls of Derby, and Lauderdale, and others, to the number of sixty.

At a house about a mile beyond *Sturbridge*, his Majesty drank, and eat a crust of bread, the house affording no better provision; from whence he went to *White Ladies*, and afterwards to *Boscobel* *, as has been more particularly narrated in a preceding county.

* After the battle it appears, that Charles had other shelter than *Boscobel*, for in a MS. in Ayscough's Catalogue at the British Museum, No. 856, p. 85. there is a grant of augmentation of arms, stating, "whereas our trusty, &c. Francis Woolf, of Madely, in the county of Salop, gent. after the unfortunate battle of Worcester, when wee were enforced for the safety of our person, being pursued by barbarous and bloody rebels, to rely upon the faith and integrity of our loyal subjects, did not only give us entertainment in his own house, but contributed by his advice, or otherwise, to our further preservation," &c.

county. Dr. Nash, who had the best opportunity of knowing many minutiae of this business, says, that as soon as Charles entered the city, a cry was made "to remount the king;" when Mr. William Bagnal, a loyal gentleman, who then lived in Sidbury, turned out his horse ready saddled, upon which his Majesty fled through St. Martin's gate. This anecdote, he says, is copied from Dr. Thomas's papers, whose daughter was married to a son of Mr. Bagnal. He adds, from the same authority, that people who remembered it, asserted that the slaughter was great, and that the streets ran with blood. The heat of the battle lay to the east of the city, and the principal slaughter was between Perrywood and the commandery.*

Notwithstanding the marked loyalty of Worcester, yet its inhabitants have always shewn a strong constitutional sense of liberty; and it is worth recording, that when James II. in one of his visits here, went to a Roman Catholic chapel, *to the door of* which he was attended by the mayor and corporation, his Majesty asked if they would not go in with him; but the mayor (Thomas Shewring, Esq.) made this apposite answer, "I think we have attended your Majesty far enough already."! Few of the events, subsequent to this, are particularly deserving of notice, with the exception of the Royal visit in 1788; this, however, in its details can only be matter of local interest, and we, therefore, refer to the various "Guides" which have preserved copious accounts of all the proceedings; and also of a later visit of his
Royal

* There is an anecdote deserving of notice, of Dr. Thomas Nettleton, of Halifax, in Yorkshire, who being on the 30th of January in company with several gentlemen, one of them was laying great stress upon Echard's ridiculous story of Cromwell's having sold himself to the Devil, just before the battle, but that the wary Oliver for once was tricked, for while he intended to bargain for 21 years of success, the Devil, by transposing the figures, had reduced them to 12. "Now Dr." said the narrator, "what do you think could be the Devil's motive for this?" The doctor, who was, notwithstanding a loyal man, answered with a degree of wit, which by some might be said to approach near to the truth, "I suppose he was in a hurry for the Restoration!"

Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, whilst on a visit at Ombersley.

In these various visits, the affability and benevolence of the different members of that august family could not fail to make a due impression on the good people of Worcester; and they have left lasting memorials of their kindness in their charitable benefactions, and in their patronage to the manufactures of this city. We shall now close this sketch of the city with noticing a recent calamity when a hail and thunder-storm took place, about half past four, on the evening of the 27th of May, 1811. Several pieces of ice were five or six inches in length. The House of Industry had 500 panes of glass broken; Flight and Barr's manufactory, 1200; the eastern painted window of the cathedral was completely destroyed; and much and very material damage done to the industrious working gardeners, and others.

Before we proceed to the delineation of the environs, it is necessary to take notice of

ST. JOHN'S BEDWARDINE,

which, although on the western side of the Severn, may be said almost to constitute a part of Worcester, having obtained its name of "Bedwardine," from being allotted to supply the table of the monks of the cathedral with bread and provisions; and though not immediately within the jurisdiction of the city, yet so closely connected, that on the Friday before Palm Sunday, the mayor and aldermen, &c. walk as a corporate body through it, attended by the sword-bearer, &c. that, being the day of the annual fair, by virtue of an old custom as early as the reign of Edward IV. Though so near to the city, it has all the conveniences of the most rural country village, being situated on a rising ground, with a good air and fine views; and its open airy street, of which it principally consists, has many good houses, which, together with a few others in its immediate vicinity, form very pleasing country retreats for the inhabitants of Worcester. On the banks of the river are many warehouses, &c. connected with the navigation; and its south-western extremity is called the township of

Wyck, bordering on that *creek*, which the river *Tem*e forms at its confluence with the *Severn*. In the time of *Leland*, that part on the western side, which is in *St. Clement's* parish, was considered as a suburb to the city; for he says, "there is a *fayre suburbe* beyond the bridge on *Severn*, and the inhabitants thereof much resort to *St. Clementes Church ad pontem*;" the village itself, however, has a vicarage church, which is in the gift of the dean and chapter, but contains no monuments of any notice, and though a pleasing specimen of the rural Gothic, is extremely uncouth and irregular in its interior arrangements. It possesses, however, a good set of six bells. It is worthy of remembrance, that *Reginald Bray*, who rose to the distinguished station of Lord Treasurer, under *Henry VII.* was a native of this village; he seems to have owed his rise, partly to his skill in architecture, and partly to his eminent services in the cause of that monarch, in his exertions to dethrone an usurping tyrant, and it is even said, that the union which took place between the heirs of the two roses, was in a great measure owing to his politic advice, and active exertions. *King's College Chapel*, *Cambridge*, the church at *Malvern*, and many other places, owe much to his architectural skill.

We now commence with the

ENVIRONS OF WORCESTER,

and proceeding to the north, enter the parish of

CLAINES, which was not a separate parish originally, but merely a chapelry belonging to *St. Helen's* church within the walls, from which it was taken about 1218. It now reaches into the *Foregate Street*, although its church is nearly two miles distant, situated between the *Kidderminster* and *Droitwich* roads, among very fertile meadows, and surrounded by lofty groves; this contains a few monuments, but has nothing else worth notice. That part which borders on the city contains *White Ladies*, the seat of the late *R. Ingram, Esq.* and which formerly was the nunnery of *Whitestone*, a priory of * seven or eight white

* *Tanner's Monasticon.*

white nuns, valued at 53l. 3s. 7d. at the dissolution, and granted to Richard Callowhill. The house itself is of more modern date, and forms a handsome rural residence, though almost within the bounds of the city. When Charles II. retired here, after the unfortunate battle, he left his gloves and garters, * which long remained in possession of the Cookseys, who then lived there; and, in the early part of the last century, the chapel of the nunnery was still standing, and had some painted saints at one end. In this parish is also the island of

BEVERE, or BEVERYE, formed by the *Beverburn*, a stream that flows through Claines parish, now called *Barbon*. This is supposed to have signified *Beaver*-brook, as those animals were once natives of this country. This island is remarkable for having twice proved an asylum to the citizens of Worcester; in the time of Hardicanute in 1041, as already related; and in 1637, during the time of a dreadful pestilence, mentioned in our historical sketch. Dr. Nash records, that at that awful period the country people were so terrified as to desert the city markets, so that the few remaining inhabitants must have starved, had it not been for the gratuitous and charitable care of the gentry in the vicinity, who sent them bread and other provisions. In this delightful hamlet is the *Seat of the late Dr. Nash*, now on sale, or lately disposed of; the house is commodious and comfortable, and nothing can be pleasanter, so near to a large city, than the shrubbery walks and terrace, which are a mile in circuit, so judiciously are they managed, possessing the most varied and charming prospects of the Malvern and Abberly hills, and of an extent of landscape rich in wood, water, and picturesque scenery. This venerable clergyman has left charitable donations to the poor of Strensham, Kempsey, St. Peter's Worcester, Claines his parish residence, and St. Peter's Droitwich, where his ancestors had property. The hamlet itself is considered as highly salubrious, and is resorted to by the Worcestersians both for health and pleasure, and for cold bathing.

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* Stukeley's Itinerary.

ROSE PLACE, a small, but pleasant mansion, lies to the north-east of Worcester, of which city it has a most delightful prospect, with many other enchanting views; it is the seat of Thomas Williams, Esq.

PERDISWELL, the seat of J. Wakeman, Esq. is on the right hand of the Droitwich road, and is an elegant modern edifice, built of free stone. It presents a very pleasing appearance to the traveller, being at a sufficient distance from the road to have a good effect; and, having side screens, and a back ground of luxuriant plantations, possesses an air both of grandeur and comfort. These plantations have been laid out with considerable taste, considering that the ground is a dead flat, and though yet in their infancy, they add much to the rural elegance of the environs of the city. The gateway is light and pleasing, and has two well executed medallions of *Plenty* and *Commerce*, with their appropriate symbols, illustrative of agriculture and navigation.

BLANKETS is a commodious brick building, but has nothing remarkable; it derived its name from an ancient possessor.

TIBBERTON lies to the east of the city, and is an extensive parish, in which, much to the credit of its inhabitants, enclosures upon a very large scale are now taking place; the public and private roads throughout which are designed upon such a liberal plan, as must ultimately tend much to the advantage of the neighbourhood. It contains nothing remarkable, but we must not omit two strange stories preserved by Mr. Fellowes, Vicar of Tibberton, in 1718, in his MS. account of the parish. One is of a Roger Tandy, who was so very strong, that, whilst at Sir John Pakington's, at Westwood, in the reign of James I. he took up a hogshead of beer, and having drank out of the bung-hole, set it down on the ground again, by the mere strength of his arms, without even resting it on his knee, or elsewhere. The other is a kind of cotemporary story with the narrator, for Hugh Pescod, commonly called the "little Turk," who was alive in his day, declared upon his oath, that, as far as he was capable of judging,

ing, he was hanged up by the neck for half an hour in a pear-tree near Tibberton, by Oliver Cromwell's troops, in August, 1651. Being afterwards cut down, and thrown into a saw-pit, he recovered; in memory of which he planted several elm-trees near his orchard! It would have been more appropriate indeed to have planted a row of *pear*-trees; but probably he had taken a distaste to them!

CRUCKBARROW HILL lies on the south-east of the city, and bears evident marks of having been a Roman, and perhaps a British station; its name indeed signifies the "hill of burial." It has a considerable elevation; its superficies is about six acres; and it forms a very prominent object on the road to Pershore. A moat is still in existence, within which was once a manor house.

ROUND HILL, a small distance from this, is deserving of observation, not only in itself, but for the beauty of its prospect, over the vale of Severn, which is completely enjoyed from a comfortable mansion on its highest point of elevation.

SPETCHLEY, which lies to the south-east of Worcester, had once a manor-house belonging to the family of Berkeley, of whom was the famous Judge Berkeley, afterwards Sir Robert, who inherited it from his father, Rowland Berkeley, Esq. of Worcester, and member for that city. To him it came from the family of Selden, after having been the property of that great lawyer, Judge Littleton, who had purchased it after the demise of the ancient possessors De Spetchley. The old manor-house was unfortunately burnt down in the civil wars, and that too by the royalist troops, although Sir Robert was known as a conscientious royalist himself, having actually suffered a fine of 20,000*l.* and been a prisoner for some months in the Tower. When affairs were arranged, the judge fitted up the stables into a dwelling-house; for they had been spared, though the house was burnt by one party, and the village by the other. The church, which is in good preservation, and neatly kept, contains a monument of Judge Berkeley, consisting of a figure in judge's

robes, lying on an altar-tomb: the inscription over it is surrounded by thirteen armorial shields, and one large one over all.

Those who are well acquainted with this place may perhaps remember an amiable character, now no more, and whose memory deserves some particular notice. We allude to *Mr. Falkner*, a Catholic clergyman, who some years since was chaplain to Robert Berkeley, Esq. of Spetchley, and whose life was an eventful one. He was son to a surgeon of eminence at Manchester, and was brought up in his father's profession, and as a Protestant; and having shewn a considerable wish to excel as a medical man, he was sent to the metropolis to complete his professional studies at St. Thomas's Hospital. Having taken lodgings in Tooley Street, in its vicinity, he became acquainted with the master of a Guinea slave ship, who persuaded him to take a trip, on his next voyage, as his surgeon. On his return to England, he made another engagement for the same situation on board a merchant ship bound to Cadiz, and thence to Buenos Ayres. During his stay at the latter place, he fell sick, and was in such danger when the ship was ready to sail, as not to be capable of being carried on board, so that she sailed without him; but the *Jesuits*, of whom there was then a college at Buenos Ayres, nursed him during his long illness, with the greatest care and kindest assiduity. Perceiving the very great advantages which they would derive in their missions, from possessing a brother so well skilled in medicine and surgery, they spared no pains to win his affection, and to secure his confidence; and, in short, they worked so much upon his mind, as to persuade him to reside in their college, and finally to become one of their order. He now entered upon his ministry among the Indians, who inhabit the vast tract of country between the river La Plata, and the Streights of Magellan; and his skill in the cure of diseases, and in performing chirurgical operations, rendered his mission successful beyond example. In those countries he remained near forty years, and acquired much geographical knowledge of them; being one of the persons appointed by
the

the Spanish government, to make a survey of all the coasts between the Brazils and the Terra del Fuego, Falkland's Islands, &c. but when the Society of Jesuits was dissolved, he was sent back to Spain, and shortly after proceeded to his native country. Here, however, the long space of forty years had so deprived him of friends and connections, that he cheerfully domesticated himself at Spetchley, being induced thereto by his friendship for Mr. Berkeley, a Catholic gentleman of distinguished knowledge, of large fortune, and of most respectable character. At Spetchley he wrote an account of Patagonia, which has been published, with a map corrected by his own observations. He possessed a very acute mind, a general knowledge, and, above all, a most retentive memory. Of his medical experience and practice, some of the most intelligent physicians of that day have spoken in the highest terms of commendation. His manners, as may well be supposed from the tenor of his life, were at once singular and inoffensive; and he retained somewhat of his Indian habits unto the very last. He died some time about the year 1781.

CHURCHILL, near Spetchley, is a sweet little village, and bid fair once to have rivalled Tunbridge, from the efficacy of a mineral water which it possesses. Unfortunately for it, however, the vicinity of Tunbridge to the metropolis made it fashionable, whilst the roads were *bad*; and when they became *good*, the rising fame of *Malvern* tended much to eclipse it.

WHITE LADY ASTON in this neighbourhood, is only remarkable for two points of its history. 'Twas here, in the old manor-house, then the property of Mr. Symonds, a great favourite of the *Protector*, that Oliver had his head-quarters the night before the battle of Worcester. In this parish also is an estate, which coming in 1708 by an unfortunate event to Bishop Lloyd, he was so unwilling that himself or family should derive any benefit from it, (having fallen out of lease by the execution of its heir for an atrocious murder,) that he lodged it in trustees for the endowment of two schools for boys and girls in Worcester, to the number of twenty-four from the different parishes.

STOUGHTON also in this neighbourhood, though possessing nothing particularly worthy of topographical description, will always be memorable as the birth-place of one who had the happy talent of uniting divinity with philosophy, and of rendering them mutually illustrative. This was *Dr. William Derham*, a most excellent Christian, philosopher, and divine, who flourished at the end of the seventeenth, and beginning of the eighteenth, centuries. He was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge; and having finished his studies, took holy orders, and became successively chaplain to the Dowager Lady Grey de Werke, Vicar of Wargrove in Berkshire, Rector of Upminster in Essex, Chaplain to King George II. whilst Prince of Wales, and Canon of Windsor. He was also chosen an early member of the Royal Society, and became one of the most useful, and most industrious, of that learned body, having enriched the Philosophical Transactions with many very curious and valuable pieces. But his principal performances, and those which have most justly immortalized his memory, were his *Physico and Astro-Theology*; the former of which appeared in 1713, and the latter in the following year. Having long employed the greatest part of his life in studying and displaying the works of nature, and goodness of God, and thus promoting the interests of piety and virtue, he resigned this world for a better, in his 79th year in 1735.*

KEMSEY stands due south of Worcester on the high road to Gloucester, and about three miles distant, near to the Severn.† Here was formerly a monastery, as far back as 799, at which time it flourished under its Abbot Baltham; but, within less than half a century afterwards, it was united to the church of Worcester. This place seems indeed, in early times, to have been of great consequence; for Henry II. held his court here, and was attended by the principal nobility and bishops of the kingdom. In 1265, Simon de Montfort, and his unfortunate prisoner Henry III. were for some time here, and lay at the bishop's palace; this was just before the battle of Evesham. It is worthy of remark also, that

“Willyam

* Wood's Athenæ.

† Tanner's Notitia.

"Willyam Canynge" so well known through the forgeries of the unhappy *Chatterton*, and who was five times Mayor of Bristol, was afterwards Dean of Westbury, and had for his benefit, or rather at his request, the rectory of Kemsey appropriated to that college, on his declaration that the revenues of the church were not sufficient to support the burthens imposed on them. He is said to have been ordained a priest to avoid a marriage proposed by King Edward IV. between him and a lady of the Widvile family, relatives of his queen.

Kemsey itself is a very handsome village, and is rapidly increasing, from the villas of many families of small fortune, and being also the thoroughfare between Bristol and Worcester. It has several very neat inns, and the roads, &c. are kept in good order. It has also several academies for youth of both sexes, placed in airy healthful situations; and its church, though not ancient, nor containing any monuments of particular note, is yet sufficiently comfortable and commodious. The Antiquarian Tourist will be interested by the investigation of an ancient camp in the neighbourhood, near to the church, which has been generally supposed to be Roman; but some, under an idea that the Romans had never established themselves in this county, are of opinion that it is Saxon or Danish: its ruins shew it to have been of considerable strength. The botanist also will meet with much to amuse, particularly the burnet-rose, *rosa spinosissima*, which grows wild in great profusion in the hedges, and possesses the most beautiful foliage.

This parish includes *Stoulton Chapelry*, (or Stoughton) in which building are several handsome monuments of the *Vincent* family, evidently *Protestants*, being barristers and benchers of Grays Inn, and all set up about the early part of last century; but with the *curious* notification on each of "pray for his soul!" How comes this in a Protestant church?

The principal seats here, are of General Ellis and of Mr. Barker; but they require not any particular description.

Powick lies more to the south-west of Worcester, and is on the opposite side of the Severn, in the high road to Malvern.

Between

Between this and Worcester, the country is a dead flat, but begins here to rise, the church, which is very ancient, standing on a very high hill, and commanding an extensive prospect of the vale of Severn, and also of Teme, which river falls into Severn in this neighbourhood, after flowing through the ancient bridge of Powick. The battle fought here during the civil wars in 1642, was somewhat nearer to Worcester than to Powick-bridge, and the principal brunt of it, was on a rising ground between the bridge, and that field which is now converted into a cherry orchard. The church stands so conspicuously as to demand attention, and is in a pleasing Gothic style, but contains no ancient monuments, as the family formerly possessing it (the Beauchamps of Powick) were interred in the cathedral. From the gentle undulations of ground, around the church, the builders of the different villas have been enabled to chuse situations affording the most pleasing prospects; and the village contains many genteel families, whose well ordered residences and grounds give it an air of great elegance. The visitor to Malvern will be pleased in passing through it, with a seat on the right hand, formerly Mr. Russels, but now we believe of Mr. Domville.

Of Eleazar Jackson, incumbent of this place, during the civil wars, has been recorded the following ecclesiastical pun. Being much pressed to take the solemn league and covenant, he desired until the next morning to consider of it. When the morning came, being applied to, he said he had a great loss the preceding night; that having read the solemn league, &c. before he went to bed, he left it upon his table; that some rogues broke in and stole all his plate, and most of his goods; but that *rogues* as they were, *they* had not taken the Solemn League and Covenant, and therefore *he* must beg to be excused. About one mile and a half from this village, is BEAUCHAMP'S COURT, once the residence of the ancient family of Beauchamp, of Powick, now represented by the noble family of *Lygon*. It is now, however, nothing more than a farm-house, one wing of the original plan being the only part ever finished of the present building.

HALLOW

HALLOW VILLAGE is about one mile and a half north-west from Worcester, on the bank of Severn, and to the right of the Tenbury road. It stands on a fine salubrious eminence gradually rising from the river, and the *Villa of Hallow* is happily situated on the most commanding part of that eminence. To describe the richness of the surrounding scenery is impossible, enlivened as it is by the moving picture on the river, wafting all the comforts and luxuries of foreign climes to the interior of our fertile plains, and, in return, transporting their produce, and giving employment to the active arm of honest industry. The Cotswould and Bredon hills, in front, fade into the distance, whilst their bright purple gives a bold relief to the Gothic turrets of the cathedral, and the elegant spires of the various churches. To the north-east, the view extends into Warwickshire; and from the back of the house, *Clee* and *Clent* raise their heads in majesty: but the most pleasant prospect is down the vale of Severn, backed to the right by Malvern's distant hills. Though the house had been for a long time untenanted, yet the pleasure grounds which had originally been well disposed, are still kept in excellent order, and the plantations, now arrived at maturity, are judiciously intersected with breaks, which, from all sides, direct the eye to the most picturesque points of view. The grounds have long been famous for possessing a purgative chalybeate spring, which, though never much in *fashion*, has yet been of considerable service to many individuals; but as it is not superior in efficacy to the waters of Cheltenham, though of the same qualities, it is not now likely to attract attention, particularly being in the *immediate* vicinity of resorts already established.

THORNGROVE is about one mile further; it was formerly the residence of William Cross, Esq.; afterwards the property of Mr. Lamotte; and has lately been purchased by *Monsieur Lucien Buonaparte*: thus exhibiting a silent, yet impressive lesson to mankind, in affording a peaceful and secure asylum to the brother of him who affects to rule the universe; of him who vainly threatens destruction to that small spot, where alone liberty reigns,
and

and which alone could give security even to the brother of the usurper. Events, thus passing before our eyes, are seldom considered of any curious importance; but the page of future history will astonish succeeding generations in recording these particulars; and mankind will scarcely believe that the brother of the Emperor of France, the arbiter of the fate of a whole continent, should yet seek protection from those whom that emperor in his vain glory had sworn to destroy; should there seek comfort in an English villa, whilst half the palaces, and half the thrones, of Europe awaited his choice. Nor is it less curious in looking over the list of game certificates for the last year, to see the name of *Monsieur Lucien Buonaparte* amongst the number; one brother thus licensed to shoot upon the land, whilst we refuse permission to the other to fire upon the sea.

The house itself, which is in a very pleasing, yet plain style of architecture, stands upon an eminence, to the left of, and at some distance from, the high-road; its white front well contrasting with the extensive lawn and serpentine lake, relieved on each side by screens of young plantations, and backed by the Abberley hills.

COTERIDGE is a pleasing village romantically situated on the banks of Teme, about three miles west of Worcester. The village itself is but small; but few spots can exceed in beauty the Mansion-house, the seat of Rowland Berkeley, Esq. which is a modern building upon the ancient site. This is the same family whom we have noticed under the head of Spetchley, to whom it came from the family of Brace, now represented by Lygon; the first Berkeley possessor was William, and his son Thomas having died in Greece whilst in a diplomatic capacity, along with the English Ambassador to the Turkish court, this estate was left to a second daughter, whose representative we believe is the present possessor. Though the building is modern, with a light and airy elevation, yet it assimilates notwithstanding with the scenery around it, which is all laid out (the home scenery at least) in the antique style: The avenue, nearly a mile long, is formed of majestic trees,

trees, which, when in summer's luxuriant foliage, give an air of grandeur to the approach: whilst the picturesque meanders of the Teme between its swelling knolls, and abruptly broken banks, present a scene of high interest and delight.

LEIGH PARISH close to it, but on the southern bank of the river, affords little worthy of notice, except the church, which is dedicated to St. Edburga, and must not be slightly passed over. The Devereux family were formerly great landholders here, and Sir Walter Devereux repaired the cycling of the chancel, which represented the firmament with the moon and stars, and this motto—"the heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament sheweth forth his handy work"—but by some strange mistake of the painter, the arms of St. Walter were also placed in the centre of the firmament! The church contains many curious monuments of the families of Devereux, Cottes, &c. This parish extends a long way to the westward of the church, and the Mansion-house of Cowleigh, is said to divide the counties of Worcester and Hereford, where, said Mr. Habington, "the springs descending from above, delight the senses; a seat for the muses, but better for devotion; for lifted up on high, if you look one way, you see nothing but the hills and the heavens; if the other, you behold a vast prospect of this perishing world, which every instant consumeth." It now belongs to Edmund Lechmere, Esq.

Having thus examined the immediate *environs* of the city, we shall proceed in a north-east direction to

HALF-SHIRE HUNDRED,

which consists of two divisions.

The UPPER contains Broinsgrove, Cofton Hacket, part of Crowle, Dodderhill, Doverdale, Droitwich, Elmbridge, Feckenham, Hadsor, Hampton Lovet, Kington, Kingsnorton, Northfield, Salwarp, Tardebig, and Upton Warin.

The LOWER contains Bellbroughton, Chaddesley Corbet, Churchhill, Cradley, Dudley, Elmley Lovet, Frankley, Hagley, Kidderminster Borough and Foreign, Kingsford, Ludley, Upper

Milton, Pedmore, Rushock, Stour, Old Swinford, Stourbridge, and Warley Wigorn.

The first place which presents itself is

DRITWICH,

which lies about six miles from Worcester, and is a small straggling dirty looking town on the banks of the Salwarpe, in a low situation surrounded by small eminences. It is supposed by some to be the *Salfur* of the Romans; and no doubt, was a populous town in the time of William the Conqueror, though by the returns of 1801, it appears to have only 139 houses, and a population of 1840 persons, chiefly employed in the salt-works. The subsequent monarchs had much property here, but King John granted it in fee farm to the burgesses for an annual rent of 100*l.* bestowing on them all privileges of toll, and exempting them from tolls and the performance of suit and service, &c.

The name has been supposed to come from *Vicus*, a street or village,—from the Saxon *scic*, a mansion—or from *rye*, holy, the northern nations attributing great sacredness to waters naturally impregnated with salt. The addition of *droit*, is said by Camden to be synonymous to “legal,” and to be also allusive to those pits which were kept open by the royal grant, when several of a weaker quality were stopped; he adds that this adjunct is not older than the time of Edward III. and was not in general use, until the reign of Mary. The town of Droitwich has always been remarkable for its loyalty through the pages of history; in its early times, it was indeed a *royal* town. In the civil wars, the burgesses signalized themselves much by their attachment to the cause of their monarch, who sent them a letter of thanks, which they for a long time preserved. Charles, also made this his headquarters in 1645, when his army besieged the rebels in Hawkesley House, on the north-side of Bromsgrove Lickey. Even in the reign of Henry VIII. this town must have been in some measure larger, though perhaps not superior, to what it is now. Leland says,

“From

"From Worcester I rode to the Wich by enclosed ground, having meetly good corn, sufficient wood, and good pasture, about six miles. The beauty of the town in a manner standith of one street. Yet there be many lanes besides. There is a meane church in the chiefe street, and there is once a week a meetly celebrate market. The town itself is somewhat foule and dirtye (when any raine falleth) with much carriage through the streets, being over ill paved, or not paved. I asked a saulter how many furnaces they had in all the 3 springes, he numbered them at 18 score, that is 360, saying that every one of them payed yearly to the kinge 6s. 8d. The people that be about the furnaces be very ill coloured." This description might indeed answer for the present day, and a stranger might suppose that the pavement had not been repaired since the days of Leland. The market of which he speaks, was then held near the George Inn, which is the house alluded to by the same writer, where he says, "going out of the towne's end, I saw a fayre and tymbre house, longing to Mr. Newport." Since that time, however, a market-house was built of timber in the year 1628. It stands in the street leading to the canal, and is at present in rather a ruinous state. Friday is the market day, and the fairs are held on the 28th of October, and 21st of December, for linen cloth and hats. The church in the town is very old, and seems going to decay; and there was formerly dependant upon this church of St. Peter, a chapel erected on the bridge, through the middle of which, passed the high road leading to Bromsgrove, so that in an old MS.* in the British Museum, it is said that the cart-way lay through the church. In fact, the reading desk and pulpit were on one side of the road, whilst the congregation sat on the other; but the commissioners of the turnpike obtained leave from the Patron and Incumbent of St. Peter's, to remove it, on condition of their building a new one near it. This they did, but it is now in ruins. There is another church, on the cliff on the north side of the river, overlooking the town.

There

* Ayscough's Catalogue, 1946.

There is a part of the town called *Duderhill*, which in Willis is mistakenly called *Doddeshall*; here was once a free chapel or hospital, dedicated to St. Mary, under the priory of Worcester, and containing a master and some poor brethren. There was also a house of friars, heremites of the order of St. Augustine founded by the Beauchamps, Earls of Warwick.

But Droitwich is most remarkable for its SALT-WORKS, which are as old as the year 816. At the Domesday Survey, shares of them were annexed to estates in the county, at the distance even of fifteen miles, and that in proportion to the wood which those estates afforded, as coals were then unknown as an article of fuel: and sometimes the wood was paid for in salt. The principal pits, indeed, belonged to the crown, and from the grant of King John of his pits to the burgesses, until the year 1689, the great proportion was monopolized by those grantees, whose pits in Upwich and Netherwich, gave them a very large annual income. About the close of the seventeenth century, however, a Mr. Steynor, a bold speculator, and well versed in the laws respecting landed property, determined to break through a system which he considered as unfounded either in equity or in reason, and he accordingly sunk some pits in his own ground. For this infringement of chartered rights, the corporation immediately commenced an action; their exclusive right, however, was set aside, and a verdict recorded, which stated that all persons in possession of landed property, not within the limits of the royal grant, had a legal right to sink pits, and to manufacture salt for their own profit, without loss or hindrance. Mr. Steynor, here spoken of, in this more fortunate period of his life, resided in the western skirts of the town, in a house which has the wreathed and ornamented chimnies of the time of Queen Elizabeth, with a court-yard before it, and which appears now to be turned into a farm-house; but he soon after shared the fate of most projectors, being ruined by lawsuits; and though the champion of public rights, was yet, after spending a large estate, obliged to depend upon parochial allow-

allowance for a subsistence; and his daughter was in 1777, a pauper of Claines parish.

In consequence of the beforementioned verdict, however, a great change took place in Droitwich; for the value of the chartered pits diminished so rapidly, that in 1725, they were worth nothing, in consequence also of a discovery of Sir Richard Lane, who having bored through the stratum of gypsum, or alabaster, which had hitherto formed the floor of the springs, was enabled to increase the quantity of brine to any necessary proportion. It is necessary to premise, that the great substratum of the vicinity of Droitwich seems to be a salt rock, which usually lies from one hundred and fifty to two hundred feet below the level; on boring in any part, the salt springs are met with about one hundred and ten feet below the surface; the borer must then pass through about one hundred and thirty feet of gypsum, when the brine river of about twenty-two inches in depth is met with, after which, is a bed of salt rock hitherto unexplored.* Sir Richard had no sooner completed his perforation, than a stream of strong brine boiled up so suddenly, and with such a prodigious force, as to drown the workmen at the bottom of the pit; and his success was so complete, that the proprietors of the neighbouring lands pursued the same method, producing in a very short time a much greater quantity of the brine than could possibly be consumed in the manufacture. This has undoubtedly increased the quantity prepared for sale, and of course given more employ to the industrious; yet it is still to be lamented, that it was attended with the total destruction of the old pits, and consequently with the utter ruin of many families, and several charities also, which had their income secured under the charter.

Now, any person who has land in this district, may sink a pit, at the very moderate expense of fifty or sixty pounds sterling,

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which

* In a search for this brine river made a few years ago, the miners passed through four feet of mould, thirty-two of marl, forty of gypsum, a brine river of twenty-two inches, and seventy-five feet of gypsum in another stratum, after which they came to the salt rock.

render the river Salwarpe navigable for the sum of 750l.; this, however, failed: after the restoration, Lord Windsor, whose estates lay in the neighbourhood, proposed to make it navigable by means of six locks, but that plan also was soon laid aside. Nothing afterwards was undertaken until 1755, when a Mr. Baker, a druggist in the metropolis, revived an old project of conveying the brine by means of pipes to Hawford, on the Severn's banks; but the scheme had too many interested in its opposition, had it even been practicable. It was then left to that self-taught genius, Brindley, to give in a plan and estimate of a canal, five miles and a half in length, which he calculated might be executed for 13,363l.: this was sanctioned by Parliament in 1768, and the canal was finished in 1771, but at an expense of 25,000l. which, indeed, is moderate, when we consider how well the canal pays. In this canal, which has six locks, the whole fall is sixty feet; in the proportion of one foot in the first three miles, and of fifty-eight feet six inches in the last two miles. It admits vessels of sixty tons: coals and salt are the principal articles of carriage; and as far back as 1782, it paid 1600l. per annum.

Droitwich has not been very rich in *biography*; we can find but one remarkable person in the annals of the town, but then *he* was a saint! This was *Richard de Burford*, born here, and who studied at Oxford, Paris, and Boulogne. He was chancellor to Thomas a Becket, and afterwards chancellor of Oxford, and bishop of Chichester; and was a man of such extraordinary learning in those times, of such integrity, such an eloquent preacher, and so eminent for his good life, that after his death he was canonized by Pope Urban III, in 1262. The salt springs having failed during his life time, it was said that his prayers had miraculously restored them, which induced the *Salters* to institute a festival at the springs in honour of him; but with respect to this, Fuller observes,* "as for the report that the wiches, or salt-pits, in this county were miraculously preserved by the prayers of this holy man, their *unsavoury* lie hath not a grain of probability to

* Fuller's Worthies.

season it, it appearing by ancient authors that *salt water* flowed there time out of mind, before *sweet milk* was given by either mother or nurse to this Saint Richard !” The

CORPORATION

of this town consists of two bailiffs, and an indefinite number of burgesses of the salt springs, who do not amount at present to more than fifteen, though they have been forty in number. Droitwich first sent members to Parliament in the 23d of Edward I. which, however, was soon after discontinued until 1554 : and their present charter was acquired in the reign of James I. when the bailiffs and burgesses, recorder, town clerk, &c. were erected into a corporation, and the power given to them of enacting such bye-laws for their own government, as should not interfere with the law of the land.

The freedom of this borough may, or rather *might*, be gained several ways ; and it is not a little curious that any woman who is born or adopted a burgess, may divest herself of it, and give it to her husband : but there seems no probability at present of this right being called into any active exercise. The Foleys and Winningtons have for some years been the representatives.

HANBURY HALL, now the residence of John Philips, Esq. is a very spacious mansion, erected by Mr. Vernon, a barrister, and representative of one branch of that ancient family about the year 1710. It is completely in the style of that period, consisting of a centre and two wings ; and as the window tax was then unknown, it contains an immense number of windows and doors, owing to the number and smallness of the various apartments. According to the style then in vogue, it has numerous closets ; arched cellars ; large and extensive stables ; but unfortunately the offices are in full view of the house. Like the houses of that age, the hall and staircase are painted with allegories, mythology, &c. and by an artist no less famous than Sir Godfrey Kneller, of whose politics, as well as those of the master of the house, we may judge by his having introduced *Sacheverell* carried away by furies. There are several pictures ; and there was a famous one
of

of Charles XII. of Sweden, drawn from the life, for Bishop Robinson. The house, indeed, contains every thing to make it comfortable, though old fashioned, for a private gentleman; and is surrounded by a well wooded park of 130 acres, in which there are many breaks leading to pleasing prospects.

The parish is but small, and has a small church, which stands on a hill a little to the eastward of the hall, from which there is a prospect well worth viewing. The church itself is a conspicuous object, standing on such an eminence that it is necessary to ascend 180 steps from the parsonage-house. In it there is a handsome monument of Counsellor Vernon, the builder of the hall, whose heiress, in 1780, married into the noble family of Exeter. He is represented reclining, in his robes, with Justice and Law on each side. There is another elegant pyramidal one to Bowater Vernon, Esq: the figure is fine, and in the attitude of study; but by a strange incongruity, the upper half is partly in Roman costume, whilst the lower is in breeches and slippers. The monument to the memory of Thomas Vernon, Esq. who died in 1771, has an elegant figure leaning on the urn; the expression is fine, and all the attitude easy, except the right arm, which is drawn rather too far forward.

FECKENHAM lies a little to the eastward: it belonged once to the Culpeppers, and then to the Hanburys. The church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, is a very neat building, and contains many curious monuments. The iron trade has spread thus far; and the inhabitants have long been famous for the manufactory of needles. Nor is their education neglected; for Sir Thomas Cookes, Bart. established a school here for boys and girls, which he endowed with 50*l.* per annum for ever, out of lands near this place. He was founder of Worcester College in Oxford, and ordered this to be the second school from whence the scholars for that college should be chosen; Bromsgrove being the first.

The FOREST OF FAKENHAM has already been mentioned as having been very extensive: here too was a station for the jus-

tices in Eyre; and a prison for delinquents against the forest laws. Drayton, in his *Polyolbion*, thus notices it :

“ Whilst Clent and Licky thus, doe bothe expresse their pride,
As Salwarp slips along by Feck'nham's shady side,
That forest him affects in wandering to the wych :
But he himself by salts, there seeking to enrich
His Feck'nham quite forgets.”

This village has two annual fairs, both for cattle ; and held on the 26th of March, and 30th of September.*

John de Feckenham, a man deserving of particular record, was thus called, because his parents, who were poor people, lived in a cottage bordering on the forest : his proper name, however, was *Howman*, which seems to have been changed for the other, according to the monkish custom. Wood, in his *Athenæ*, gives an interesting account of him, and says, that while he was yet a child, he was very apt to learn, having a natural genius to good letters, and to any thing that seemed good ; which being perceived by the priest of his parish, he was, by the endeavours and persuasions of several considerable persons, taken into Evesham monastery, from whence he was sent to Gloucester College, Oxford, where there were apartments for the young monks of that abbey to lodge in ; but on his return to Evesham, that abbey being dissolved in 1535, he had an allowance of 100 florins per annum from the exchequer. Being committed prisoner to the Tower, during the changes of the reformation, he was released, “ or rather borrowed hence for a time, by Sir Philip Hobie, for no other reason but to dispute about matters of religion, to satisfy Protestants, who then thought that their religion could not be denied.” He disputed with Cranmer, Ridley, and Latimer, about these points, a short time preparatory to their martyrdom ; yet during the whole time of Queen Mary's reign, he employed himself in doing good offices for the persecuted Protestants of every rank

* The circuit of the ancient bounds of the forest, may be found at the British Museum. Cotton's Col. NERO. D. III. 4.

rank in life; and even ventured to intercede with the queen for the princess Elizabeth, for which he was for some time in disgrace. He was shortly after made Dean of St. Paul's, and Abbot of Westminster, which office he was the last to hold; and when Queen Elizabeth came to the crown, and the reformation again began to take place, he still ventured to deny, and to make speeches against her supremacy in the House of Peers.* It is recorded that the Protestant queen was so struck with his character for learning, piety, charity, humility, and other virtues, as to offer him the archbishopric of Canterbury, provided he would take the oath, and conform to the ritual of the church of England as then established; but this he refused. After this he seems to have suffered persecution, was committed prisoner to the Tower, and obliged to undergo several disputes with Protestant divines about religion; yet it is remarkable that he was not permitted to be one of those that were *publicly* to dispute with their antagonists, as happened more than once in the early part of Elizabeth's reign. During the preceding reign of Mary, he held a conference with Lady Jane Grey, prior to her death; this he published. He wrote many other things; and performed and established many charities, as yet but little known, but which are now in a train of elucidation, from the genius and industry of a gentleman well qualified for the task, who has been for some time occupied with the investigation of the Habyngdon and other MSS. in order to leave nothing unknown respecting the county which is worthy of enquiry.

Crowle lies about six miles south-east of Droitwich. It is a pleasant village, but not much frequented, being out of the general line of high roads: we mention it particularly, as there is an anecdote respecting it, which may give some insight into the manners of the priesthood, *previous* to the reformation. It then belonged to the prior and convent of Worcester; and a short time before the dissolution, some reasons having induced that body to tempt William More, their then prior, to resign, they gave him in

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* About this period he planted the elms in Dean's-yard, Westminster.

then this town of Crowle, with the plate, linen, and furniture, at the same time they permitted him still to retain apartments at the priory, gave him the keep of two geldings, sufficient fuel at both places, a monk to wait on him and say mass, and fifty pounds per annum. They gave him also the immediate sum of 1000 marks, and paid his debts amounting to 100l.

Hindlip, or *Hendlip Hall*, lies to the southward of Droitwich, about half way on the road to Worcester, and is situated at the distance of two large fields from the eastern side of the high road. It is now a boarding school for young ladies; but was once remarkable for its private history, as for the extraordinary manner in which it is built. Its erection took place about the reign of Henry VIII. or shortly afterwards in the reign of Elizabeth; and it is not only completely in the exterior architectural style of that period, but is also in the interior highly illustrative of the then general mode of life, and of the additional securities which its builder almost foresaw would be necessary for his descendants. In fact, whoever has wandered with the writers of modern romance, through towers, turrets, winding passages, creaking staircases, and dark closets, would here find themselves at home: there is scarcely an apartment that has not secret ways of going in or going out; some have back staircases concealed in the walls; others have places of retreat in their chimnies; some have trap-doors; and all present a picture of gloom, insecurity, and suspicion. To sum up all, we may say, in the words of Gray, that the builder has contrived

" To raise the ceiling's fretted height,
Each pannel in achievements cloathing,
Rich windows that exclude the light,
And passages that lead to nothing."

It is not the less interesting, for still possessing some old family portraits of those most connected with its history; and the curious tourist may see *John Abingdon*, or *Habyndon*,* the builder

* This name is so variously spelt in the different authorities consulted, that it is next to impossible to preserve a consistent orthography.

builder of the house; he was cofferer to Queen Elizabeth's household, but a Roman Catholic in heart, and supposed to have favoured the claims of Mary, Queen of Scots: here also is *Thomas*, his son, of whom it has been said, that his punishment for treasonable practices rendered him happy, by turning his attention from the distractions of politics, to the tranquillity of literary pursuits: here is with him his wife *Mary*, daughter of Lord Morley, and sister to Lord Monteagle, to whom she wrote the secret letter which led to the discovery of the gunpowder plot in the reign of James, now in the paper-office at Whitehall.

Thomas Habyngdon deserves particular notice here, as his MSS. respecting this county are highly interesting to all investigators of its history and antiquities. Wood, in his *Athenæ*, calls him son of John, son of Richard H. of Brockhampton in Herefordshire, and says he was born at Thorpe, in Surry, in 1560; at sixteen he became a commoner in Lincoln College, Oxford, and after three years' study was sent to the universities of Paris and Rheims. Returning to England, he became possessor of Hinlip on his father's death, and soon made a conspicuous figure in the attempts at the revival of the Roman Catholic religion, for which he twice owed his life to the clemency of two monarchs. His first glaring attempt was in the reign of Elizabeth, with the intention of releasing Mary, Queen of Scots, from her prison, for which he suffered six years' imprisonment in the Tower, where, as Wood observes, "he profited more in that time in several sorts of learning than he had before in all his life." It is indeed probable that he would have suffered as well as others, had not the queen remembered that he was her own godson, and also been influenced by the consideration of his father's faithful services. After Elizabeth's decease, and the accession of James, he seems to have been as inimical to the son's claim, as he had been partial to that of the mother; and he would certainly, and most deservedly, have been executed for his connection with the gunpowder-plot conspirators, had not his father-in-law, Lord Morley, interested himself for a pardon, which was
acceded

succeded to perhaps in some measure on account of the chance discovery through his wife's letter; but at the same time granted only on condition of his continuing within the limits of this county during life. This large prison gave him room for the exercise of his genius; and he formed the plan of rendering his imprisonment not only agreeable to himself, but useful to others, by a collection of materials for its history, which have been since arranged by Dr. Nash, as the ground work of his late survey.* With respect to the discovery alluded to, it is well known that Mrs. Abbingdon, anxious to save the life of her brother, Lord Mordaunt, wrote the obscure letter received by him on the very night before the explosion was to have taken place, and which hence James only could understand. It has been supposed that

Abbingdon made great alterations in the house originally built by his father; and that being perpetually implicated in such dark contrivances, as at once demanded secrecy in their arrangements, and might require means of concealment and escape, if found out, he had with much ingenuity converted this building into a fit place for such purposes. Indeed, as we have already noticed, it is filled with a variety of hiding places, so carefully contrived and concealed, as to elude almost all research. Four of the last conspirators, Owen and Chambers, Garnet and Hill, were concealed in pairs in two of those recesses, which are still pointed out; and their concealment was so ingenious, that although those sent in pursuit were certain of their being here, yet it required the incessant research of eight days to discover them. This has been detailed in a MS. in the British Museum, which states, that " Sir Henry Bromlie, on Monday January 20th last, by break of day, did engirt and round beset the house of Mayster Thomas Abbingdon, at Hendlip near Worcester. Mr. Abbingdon not being then at home, but ridden abroad about some occasions best known to himself, the house being goodlie and of great receipt, it required the more diligent labour and pains in the searching.

* These MSS. are now in the library of the Antiquarian Society, and are undergoing a most accurate revision, as before observed.

searching. It appeared there was no want; and Mr. Abbingdon coming home that night, the commission and proclamation being shewn to him, he denied any such men to be in his house; and voluntarily to die at his own gate, if any such were to be found in his house, or in that shire; but this liberal, or rather rash speech, could not cause the search so slightly to be given over, the cause enforced more respect than that, or words of any such like nature; and proceeding on according to the trust reposed in him, in the gallery over the gate there were found two cunning and artificial conveyances in the main brick wall, so ingeniously framed, and with such art, as it cost much labour ere they could be found. Three other secret places, contrived by no less skill and industry, were found in and about the chimnies, in one whereof two of the traitors were close concealed. These chimney conveyances being so strangely formed, having the entrances into them so curiously covered over with brick, mortared and made fast to planks of wood, and coloured black like the other parts of the chimney, that very diligent inquisition might well have passed by without throwing the least suspicion on such unsuspecting places. And whereas divers funnels are usually made to chimnies according as they are combined together, and serve for necessary use in several rooms, so here were some that exceeded common expectation, seemingly outwardly fit for carrying forth smoke; but being further examined and seen into, their service was to no such purpose; but only to lend air and light downward into the concealments, where such as were inclosed in them at any time should be hidden. *Eleven* secret corners and conveyances were found in the said house, all of them having books, massing stuff, and popish trumpery, in them, only two excepted, which appeared to have been found in former searches, and therefore had now the less credit given to them. But Mayster Abbingdon would take no knowledge of any of these places, nor that the books or massing stuff were any of his, until at length the deeds of his lands were found in one of them, whose custody doubtless he would not commit to any place of neglect, or where he could

have no intelligence of them, whereto he could then devise no sufficient excuse. Three days had been fully spent, and no man found there all this while; but upon the fourth day in the morning, from behind the wainscot in the galleries, came forth two men of their own voluntary accord, as being no longer able there to conceal themselves, for they confessed that they had but one apple between them, which was all the sustenance they had received during the time they were thus hidden. One of them was named Owen, who afterwards murdered himself in the Tower; and the other Chambers: but they would take no other knowledge of any other men's being in the house. On the eighth day the before-mentioned place in the chimney was found; forth of this secret and most cunning conveyance came Henry Garnet, the Jesuit, sought for, and another with him named Hall; marmalade, and other sweet-meats, were found there lying by them; but their better maintenance had been by a quill or reed, through a little hole in a chimney that backed another chimney into a gentlewoman's chamber; and by that passage, cawdle, broths, and warm drinks, had been conveyed to them." Of these, Garnet was executed in London, and the others in the country. The house is at present rather in a ruinous state; many of the windows blocked up; the gardens all in disorder, but with the home grounds affording a good idea of ancient manners: the small church too, which almost joins the house, deserves the notice of the inquisitive tourist.

HAWFORD, a small village, lies to the westward of this about two miles. Here is the junction of the Salwarp and Severn, and of the Droitwich Canal; with bridges on the high road to Kidderminster. There is a very handsome seat here belonging to Mr. Welsh, a gentleman of large fortune, who is turning the high road at his own expense, in order to render it not only more commodious for the public, but also to throw it at a greater distance from the rear of his own house and offices. The house stands upon a high bank; and on the opposite side is another, with the river and canal flowing between, both handsomely dotted with

with clumps, well backed by plantations, and possessing some very fine views both of home and distant scenery. The botanist, in this neighbourhood, will find much amusement, particularly a very curious species of the hoary plantane, *plantago media*, or lamb's tongue, diversified with stripes of a bright straw colour.

SALWARP stands a little higher up the river, and is a neat and very pleasant village, on a commanding seite, and filled with comfortable, and even elegant, mansions. Leland, speaking of this village, says, "from Hartlebury I rode a five miles by enclosed ground, having meetly good grasse and corne, and plenty of wood, till I come to a stone bridge, under the which runneth a brook coming from the Wiehe, and soe a little lower to a village called Salop, whereof at the bridge the brooke is called Salop brooke." It has a church, which at a distance is a very conspicuous object, but contains nothing particular except a few monuments, and is kept in very neat order.

HIGH PARK, an elegant modern mansion, belonging to Philip Gresley, Esq. is deserving of the name, from its commanding situation, and is situated at a small distance from Salwarp.

This village is biographically remarkable as the birth-place of Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, in 1381; a personage so renowned in his day for military prowess, and other accomplishments, as to have it said, that in him the twelve labours of Hercules found a real performer.*

1. Being scarcely twenty-two years old, he challenged and justed with all comers at the queen's coronation, time of Henry IV.

2. He engaged Owen Glendwr, the Welsh rebel, and defeated him, taking his banner with his own hands.

3. He conquered the two Percies at Shrewsbury.

4. Being challenged at Verona, during his pilgrimage to the Holy land, by Sir Pandulph Malacot, an Italian, to fight with him at three weapons, axe, sword, and dagger; he would have slain his adversary at the second weapon, had not some of the spectators seasonably interceded for him.

5. Fighting

* Fuller's Worthies.

5. Fighting at a tournament in France, with Sir Collard Fiennes, at every stroke he bore him backward to his horse; and when the French suspected that he was tied to his saddle, he immediately alighted, and mounted again, in order to remove their doubts.

6. Being eminently successful in all the glorious battles of Henry V. in France.

7. Being sent by that monarch to the council of Constance with a retinue of 800 horse.

8. Having killed at Constance, a German duke, who challenged him in the presence of the emperor.

9. The Empress was so struck with his valour, that she took the *badge* from one of the Earl's men, being a plain bear of silver, and wore it on her shoulder. But the next day, Warwick presented her with a bear, which was his crest, made of pearls and precious stones.

10. Being sent by King Henry V. with 1000 men at arms, to fetch his Queen, Katharine, only daughter of the French monarch, he fought with the Earls of Vendosme and Limousin, killed one of them with his own hand, routed their forces of 5000 men, and brought the lady, whom he saw safely married to his king.

11. Henry, by his will, appointed him governor of his infant son, during his minority, and also made him Lieutenant of all France.

12. During his life, the success of British affairs in France was progressive, but retrograde after his death.

Sigismund, the emperor, whilst in England, affirmed to Henry, that no Christian king had such another Knight, for wisdom, education, and manhood; and he also, under the sanction of his Imperial authority, and with the consent of the king, ordered that he should in future be called "the Father of Courtesie."

Whilst on his last voyage to Normandy, a gale came on, which threatened him with shipwreck, when he immediately put on his armour, and had himself, his lady, and infant son, lashed to the mainmast, in order, that being found with his coat armour, he might

might have Christian burial, becoming of a Knight. He escaped shipwreck, but died at Rouen, in 1439, and is buried at Warwick; and Fuller concludes his character, by saying that his deeds of charity were little inferior to the achievements of his valour.

WESTWOOD HOUSE, the seat of Sir Herbert Packington, Bart. is about two miles to the westward of Droitwich, in the centre of an extensive park, laid out, as it were, in rays of planting, from a centre which is occupied by the house. The park contains much excellent timber, producing a fine shade, and affording a good specimen of ancient customs. It has also a considerable lake of sixty acres, but originally intended to be one hundred; the park itself, consisting of about two hundred acres. The trees mostly oak, and encircling the house, which stands upon a rising ground, whilst the richness of the wood, combining with the stateliness of the edifice, forms a picture of ancient magnificence, highly illustrative of those times*.

Eustachia de Say, and her son Osbert Fitzhugh, having given the church here to the Abbey of Font-Evraud, in France, in the reign of Richard II.† here was shortly afterwards a small priory, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, for six nuns of the Benedictine order, which at the dissolution was valued at 78l. 8s. and the priory, and most of the lands belonging to it, were then granted by Henry VIII. to John Pakyngton, Esq. He built the house, which is of brick, and forms a square, with a wing from each corner, the whole being ornamented with turrets, in the style of Holland House, near Kensington. The offices are in the rear; a large court in front, with high walls and a turretted gateway; the gardens, which are not extensive, surrounded by walls; and part of the park in front enclosed with light railing. The house begins to exhibit symptoms of decay; it is indeed a great disadvantage attending brick buildings, that they never look well in a decaying state, nor will ever form picturesque ruins like those of
stone.

* Nash's Survey.

† Tanner, p. 624.

stone; besides, we are apt to attach uncomfortable ideas to an old brick house, and to judge of it by the ragged appearance of old buildings in towns of the same materials.

There are many ancient family paintings; the best of which may be seen copied in Nash's Survey. Amongst these is a curious one of Sir John Perrot, Knight of the Bath, and Lord Justice of Ireland, in 1585. His mother was a Berkeley; but Naunton, in his *Fragmenta Regalia*, insinuates, that he was a natural son of Henry VIII. "If we compare," says he, "his picture, his qualities, gesture, and voice, with those of the king, which memory yet retains among us, they will plead strongly that he was a surreptitious child of the blood royal;" and in the copy of this picture, given by Nash, which is well done, any person may observe the strong similitude to the suspected father. Sir John Pakyngton, Knt. the son of the first grantee, was sheriff of this county, in the reign of Elizabeth. Fuller says of him, that "being a fine, but no assiduous courtier, he drew the curtain between himself and the light of the queen's favour, and then death overwhelmed the remnant, and utterly deprived him of recovery: and they say of him, that had he brought less to the court than he did, he might have carried away more than he brought, for he had a time of it, but was no good husband of opportunity."

This house, in the old troublesome times, often afforded an asylum to learned men; particularly during the civil wars, to the Bishops Morley and Fell, and to Dr. Hammond, &c. It is generally supposed, that the good Lady Pakyngton, as she was always called, was the authoress of "*The Whole Duty of Man*," written in concert with Bishop Fell. She died in 1679, and had also "*The Decay of Christian Piety*" attributed to her.

OMBERSLEY village stands about two miles west of Westwood House, and six miles north of Worcester, on the road to Kidderminster. This was anciently "parcell of the possessions of the monastery of Evesham, and the fee-farm of the rectory and church, with the tythes, &c. were granted by King James I. in his 8th year, to Francis Philips and Richard More, to hold in

free and common soccage, for 33l.* and from them the manor was purchased by the eldest son of Bishop Sandys, already spoken of, from whom it has descended to the present Marchioness Dowager of Downshire, who is Baroness Sandys, in her own right.

The village possesses a charter for a fair and weekly market, granted by Edward III. but the market is discontinued. It consists principally of ancient wooden framed houses, without any appearance of industry or comfort; yet it is large and populous. Even in its present state it owes much to the Sandys family, who have been careful that the inside of the church should be neatly paved, and kept in good repair; and the tourist cannot fail of being struck with the contrast between the body of the church, which is very low, and the loftiness of the spire. This spire, however, though very handsome, is in such a state of decay, as to require being taken down. The charity school here, we understand, is managed on an extensive and liberal plan.

OMBERSLEY COURT,

the seat of the Marchioness of Downshire, stands near the church, in the midst of extensive, but very flat grounds, except towards the river, where they are picturesque, being well wooded. The house itself, though built by Samuel, son of the prelate, and the first Lord Sandys, has quite an air of modern elegance, and will be much improved by a new stone coating, which it is at present receiving. It is a handsome building, consisting of a centre and two wings, and is not too gaudy, but comfortable and commodious. The present repair it is undergoing is far from being finished, but as future tourists will most probably find the valuable collection of portraits nearly in their present order, we shall subjoin a brief sketch of the most remarkable.

The *Breakfast Parlour* contains a portrait over the chimney of the Honourable John Russel, third son of Francis, Earl of Bedford, and Colonel of the Regiment of Guards, in the reign of Charles II. he was brother to the glorious, but unfortunate, Lord

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* Harl. Coll. No. 5013, p. 127.

Russel. Here are also a portrait of Henry Howard, fourth son of the Earl of Arundel; and a very capital production by Vandyke, of Charles Lewis, brother of Prince Rupert.

In the *Saloon*, are Bishop Sandys, and his wife Cecilia, over the door; Sir Samuel Sandys, eldest son of the archbishop, and his wife Mary; then comes one of *Dobson's* best performances *, the subject of which is Prince Rupert and Colonel Murray, over a bottle, persuading Colonel Russel, father of Lord Orford, to resume his commission, after having thrown it up in disgust. The artist has executed this groupe much in nature. Russel appears completely tipsy, and rests his head upon a flask, whilst Murray, who may be known at first sight for a Scotchman, and is drawn with a sly look, but still with a soldier-like expression, is dipping his cockade in a glass of Burgundy, as if wetting his commission anew. Prince Rupert is on the back ground, about as sober as the rest of the party, *with a star on his cloak*, which is indeed an anachronism that excites a doubt respecting this being the work of Dobson; for the *Star* of the Order of the Garter was not introduced until the reign of Charles II. ! some years after Dobson's death. Here is also a very fine painting by Sir Godfrey Kneller, of William Russel, first Duke of Bedford. Thomas Cheeke, Lieutenant of the Tower, with a red scarf.

In the *Dining Parlour*, Mr. Martyn Sandys, a boy of five or six years old, about 1677, son of Captain Samuel Sandys. This is deserving of notice, as the boy is in a *hunting-dress*, having small buttons down to the bottom of his coat, shirt-sleeves puffed, with

* Lord Orford (Horace Walpole) says, that Dobson was called by King Charles, "the English Tintoret," yet he was no excellent performer; but by the advantage of copying some pictures of Titian and Vandyke, profited so much, that a picture he had drawn, whilst apprentice to Sir Robert Peake, a painter and dealer in pictures, being exposed in the window of a shop in Snowhill, Vandyke passing by, was struck with it, and enquiring for the artist, found him at work in a poor garret, from whence he took him, and recommended him to the king. The picture alluded to in the text, may have been his last performance; for, being thrown into prison for debt, he died in 1646.

with large ruffles, a laced cravat, with a profusion of ribands, a broad girdle, and a hunting horn. Lady Denham. Sir John Cheek, preceptor to Edward VI.

The *Staircase* has a large painting, executed by Fuller, not in a very good style, but extremely curious as an historical memorial, representing the six leading whigs of Queen Anne's reign, generally known as the *Junto*. These are full lengths; and are, the Duke of Devonshire, with a blue riband, and a book of maps; Lord Halifax, with medals; Lord Somers, with a book; Lord Wharton, with a letter; Lord Sunderland, with a blue mantle on his knee; and Lord Orford standing with a globe and maps near him on the floor. In order to give the figures more relief, the painter has introduced a negro in the back ground, holding a curtain.

The *Bedchamber* contains several striking portraits, among which is a good picture of George Sandys, the traveller to the Holy Land. He was brother to the first peer, and from a fondness for travelling, rambled over Palestine, Egypt, and great part of Turkey. His observations, which have been published, and are now scarce, are very amusing, and their general correctness has been subsequently ascertained by later tourists. He was not only remarkable as a traveller, but as a poet, of whom Dryden speaks very highly; and though we cannot consider his poetical effusions as equal to Pope, yet it has been asserted, that it was from reading a translation of the "*metamorphoses*," by Sandys, that Pope was first prompted to his poetical efforts. Full length of Edward Denny, Earl of Norwich. Picture of Hay, the celebrated Earl of Carlisle, which has been engraved in Pennant's tour to Scotland. In short, this elegant seat, when completed, will afford much gratification to the visitor of taste.

HOLT CASTLE is in this immediate neighbourhood, but is on the western side of the river, over which there is a ferry. Of the ancient castle, said to have been the family seat of Urso D' Abetot, first hereditary sheriff of Worcester, there are now scarcely any remains, unless part of the walls are incorporated in

the fragments of a castle of later date, erected by the Beauchamps, to whom it came by descent. Surrounded with thick woods, to which its name alludes, and defended by towns, turrets, &c. it long stood in secluded grandeur; but having been purchased in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, by Sir Thomas Bromley, then Lord Chancellor, he built a new mansion, which is still standing, with some later additions, and being turretted, though with square windows, forms, in conjunction with some remnants of the older castle, a pleasing specimen of ancient manners. It has latterly been the residence of the Chillingworth family, but is now occupied by a farmer. Indeed, it is melancholy to see so many of our ancient mansions either disrobed of their furniture, and left untenanted, in order to avoid the taxes, or merely occupied by some illiterate boors, unable to comprehend the beauties of their residence, whilst the proper inhabitants are passing their days in *indolent activity* at a watering-place, or perhaps pursuing such courses in the gay metropolis, as will soon put the antique walls into the hands of some *new man*, who without any internal sentiment to prompt him to their preservation, will either pull them down to make room for his villa of flaring bricks, or will so overload them with *verandas* and Chinese railing, as to disfigure every beauty they possess.

We beg it may be understood, however, that this observation has no *specific* reference to the subject now before us; but is a general one, merely arising from the present occasion.

The church is very ancient, and is very justly considered by Dean Lyttleton, as the completest specimen of Saxon architecture to be met with now in this county; the whole of it, except the tower and south aisle being in that style; yet it may not perhaps be so old as the Conquest, as the Saxon style was not laid aside until the subsequent reign of Stephen. The door-ways have all the circular zigzag mouldings, and the capitals of the columns are ornamented with grotesque figures, placed on low massy pillars.

We now proceed to

BROMS-

BROMSGROVE,

through a pleasing line of country, indifferently well wooded, but where the traveller cannot help noticing that observation of Arthur Young's*, that here he first remarked the abominable custom of stripping the timber trees to make them look like May-poles, to the entire destruction of the timber, and distorting the face of the whole country.

This town was formerly called Bremesgrave, and was in the Crown from the Conquest, until the reign of Henry III. it then passed through various occupants, returning several times to the Crown, until James I. granted it to the ancestor of the late Lord Chedworth, whose heir sold it to the Windsor family. Leland speaking of it in his time, says, "I rode from the Wyche to Bromsgrove, a four miles by enclosed ground, having some good corne, meetly wooded, and well pastured; and in this waye I passed over two or three bridges over the water that cometh from the Wyche. The town of Bromsgrove is all in a manner of one street, very large, standinge in a plain ground. The town standeth somethinge by Clothinge. The heart of the town is meetly well paved."

It is not even now much altered from that description, and is still a large, but dirty place, full of shops, and of manufactures of nails, needles, and some sheeting and coarse lineus. The principal street is long, but straggling; containing some very good houses, whilst many of the more ancient ones are framed of wood, and curiously decorated with black stripes and cross pieces, scollops, flowers, leaves, and other ornaments, of which the glaring contrast of colours produces a most unharmonious effect. The church, which is a pleasing Gothic structure, is dedicated to St. John the Baptist. The tower and spire, whose height is 189 feet, form a most commanding object, and cannot perhaps be surpassed for antique elegance, by any others in the county. They are highly ornamented with Gothic mouldings, and with three statues of St. John, St. Peter, and St. Paul, on the western side. The body of the church has three aisles; the windows contain some

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very

* Young's Tour, Vol. III. p. 381.

very good painted glass; there are several handsome monuments of the Talbots of Grafton, now the Earls of Shrewsbury, and one of Counsellor Lyttelton, of the Hagley family; but we are sorry to observe, that during the repair of the chancel, some years ago, some very improper changes of the monuments and brasses took place. It were well indeed, if an Act of Parliament were to take place to prevent the *barbarous beautifyings* which are so often executed by the orders of as *barbarous* churchwardens. Surely even now, the bishops, or archdeacons, in their visitations, might look into these matters, if the resident clergy will not. The ground on which the church stands is so high as to be ascended by fifty steps.

There is a grammar school here, founded by Edward VI. with an additional endowment by Sir Thomas Cookes, who gave exhibitions from the school to Worcester college, in Oxford, of his own foundation.

Bromsgrove, as early as the reign of Edward I. returned two members to parliament; but that is now discontinued.

The local jurisdiction consists of a court baron, which sits once in three weeks in the Townhall, for the recovery of small debts.

Those who are fond of hunting after *Echops*, may find here several remarkable ones; the first is at a white gate between Dyer's Bridge and the turnpike; a second in the Crown close, behind the High Street; again, at the east and west corners of the church, and on the east side of the High Street, near the Presbyterian meeting-house. At Barnet Green, in this parish, there is a chalybeate spring, which, though not yet in fashion, is known by the poorer classes, and sometimes used with good effect; a petrifying well also near Holly Wood, but these modes of enervation are too well known to require description.

The market is on Tuesday; and there are two fairs for linen cloth, cheese, horses, and cattle, on the 24th of June, and 1st of October. In manufactures, Bromsgrove does a little in the combing and spinning of long wool for the hosiers in Leicester-

shire;

shire, and the other modes of industry are linen for wear, and also for sheeting and table-cloths, &c. besides many small articles of iron ware, such as needles, nails, and tenterhooks. The town itself contains about 500 houses, and 3000 inhabitants; but the whole parish consists of 14000 acres, and 3000 of an additional population; of the whole of which, about one one half are supported by manufactures: and it is much to the credit of this place, that although the poor-rates were 6000*l.* per annum, in 1801, yet by careful and judicious management, they were reduced, in 1807, to 3,500*l.*

The LICKEY is a wild and lofty range of hills, a little to the north of the town; much of it, however, is now in cultivation since the act of enclosure, and other parts judiciously covered with young plantations. The views from it, particularly into Warwickshire, and over Worcestershire, are very extensive and pleasing, and the winding road, as the tourist descends towards Northfield, is extremely romantic, between the high and impending cliffs, which, though not swelled into mountains, are yet sufficiently striking to produce a fine effect.

It has been very justly supposed that this is the highest ground in England, for it contains a small spring which divides itself into two streams; one of which, flowing to the northward, runs into the Rea, and after joining the Trent, falls into the German Ocean; whilst the other, emptying itself into the Stour, and thence to the Severn, is carried to the Irish sea. This great waste, as it was once, of 2000 acres, yielding nothing but heath, furze, and fern, and some delicate pasturage for sheep, is now enclosed in a great measure, and produces good crops of turnips, clover, and potatoes. This enclosure, for all expenses, cost about eight pounds per acre. Here too, the rights of the poor were carefully respected: the established cottagers had their land allotted, and were confirmed in possession: and here, as well as at Bournheath in the same parish, many of this useful class of people live comfortably on their own premises, with well cultivated gardens, potatoe grounds, and pigs, but no cows. These cottages are neat and

comfortable ; most of them built with brick and tile, and in general they are scattered about so as to produce a very picturesque effect.

Here the botanist will meet with the Cranberry, *Vaccinium Oxycoccis*, particularly in the bottoms, where boggy. It flowers here in June, and has its berries in September. In the same *habitats* too he will find the purple marsh cinque foil, *Comarum Palustris*.

DODFORD in this parish, was once a small priory of premonstratensian canons, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, and as old as King John. Its situation is retired, and part of its remains may be seen in the walls of a farm-house, the whole of which seems of very considerable antiquity.

There are several other ancient buildings in the parish : *Barnesley-hall*, the seat of ancient gentry, as Mr. Habyngdon styles it, was situated on the skirt of the Lickey ; and *Hawkesley House*, which stood on the north-side of the Lickey, was fortified and garrisoned by the rebels, but taken in 1645, the soldiers refusing to defend it when they saw it attacked by the king in person, although they were well stored with provisions, ammunition, &c.

CHADWICK MANOR, to the north of Bromsgrove, deserves notice as the residence of Mr. Carpenter, a most intelligent gentleman farmer, and the author of an ingenious Treatise on Agriculture.

COFTON HALL is a large and convenient residence, in the old style, but with some considerable additions, made to it some years ago, by its then possessor, the late Thomas Jolliffe, Esq. Like the situation of many old manor-houses, the ground round it is low and damp, but well capable of being drained. Its present possessor is Robert Biddulph, Esq.

NORTHFIELD parish was anciently the property of the Bete-tourts ; afterwards of the Berkleys ; but now part of the Jervois Clerke estates. Here the antiquarian will be pleased with the ruins of WOOLY CASTLE, an ancient fortress, of which, however, little remains but the south wall. As far as it can be traced, it

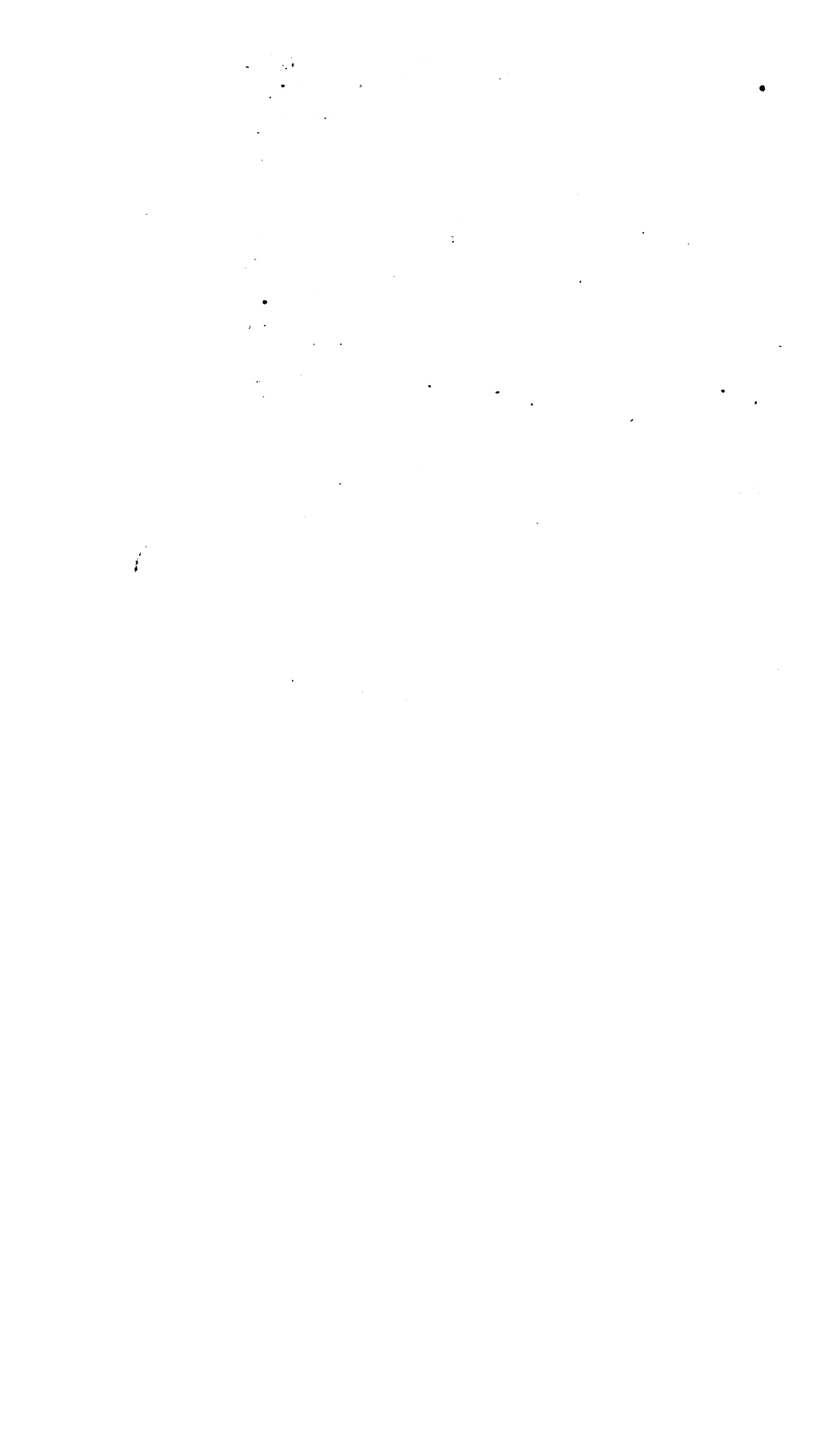
seems



Remains of
DUDLEY PRIORY CHURCH,
 Worcesterhire.

Engraved by John Kaye. From a drawing by W. Kaye.

Engraved by John Kaye. From a drawing by W. Kaye.



seems to have been in form of a parallelogram, with an extensive central area, and must have covered about half an acre, but in a very low situation; and even in ancient times could not have been a very strong place of defence, for having no keep, it might be commanded from several points. A large and deep moat surrounded it, filled with water from a brook which runs on its north side; the whole contents of the castle and moat may, perhaps, be a couple of acres, and its scite is now occupied by a garden.

The surrounding country too is extremely well timbered, and from its diversity of surface, presents many rich and beautiful views. The parish church is well deserving the notice of the tourist. On the north side, there is an ancient doorway, now stopped up, which has a round Saxon arch, with the mouldings adorned in a very singular manner, which Bishop Lyttleton conjectures was part of the ancient Saxon building: and the chancel windows are of a very elegant style of Gothic architecture, apparently of the time of King John. Here the high-road passes through the grounds of an ancient manor-house, which stands on one side, whilst the offices, particularly a very curious pigeon-house, are on the other. It is inhabited by a farmer, but deserves examination.

KING'S NORTON is a small village and Chapelry in Bromsgrove parish, and has a market on Saturdays, and two fairs for all sorts of cattle, on the 25th of April, and 5th of September. The chapel is not much inferior to the mother church at Bromsgrove, having a very lofty and elegantly ornamented spire, and much painted glass in the windows. There are several monuments; and it affords a most curious *vocal* pedigree, the late parish clerk's ancestors having held that office upwards of 200 years. Here is a free-school founded by Edward VI. The Worcester and Birmingham canal passes through a hill in this vicinity, with a tunnel well worth examination. It is sixteen feet wide, and eighteen high; and, though for the sake of expedition, it was begun at both ends, yet its line is so perfectly straight as to be seen through, for a length of nearly two miles.

ALVECHURCH, though now in decay, has formerly been a place of considerable consequence, if we may judge from the names of streets, which now retain little more than their appellation. Its church is ancient, and is dedicated to St. Lawrence; it is evidently Saxon, but with a more modern built tower, and six tuneable bells: it has also some monuments. Here are two fairs annually for cattle, sheep, and lambs, on the 22d of April, and the 10th of August the day of its patron saint.

HEWELL GRANGE, the seat of the Earl of Plymouth, though long dismantled, has been refurnished, and is once more the seat of elegance, plenty, and of hospitality. The house, which was built in 1712, is a handsome specimen of architecture, and stands in the midst of a pleasant park, having hills gently swelling, and a lake of clear water of about thirty acres. The house itself is very extensive, having one front 127 feet in length, and the other 109. The plantations are on a very large scale, and abound with oaks in various stages of growth. This, and a considerable part of the parish of TARDEBIG, were given by the Empress Maud to Bordesley abbey; and at the dissolution they were acquired by Lord Windsor, in exchange for other manors.

In the church there is a chancel, called Sir Thomas Cookes. He founded Worcester College in Oxford, and died in 1702; being by his own directions, buried with a gold chain and locket about his neck, and two diamond rings of little value on his fingers. Yet about the year 1750, it is said that David Cooks, Esq., heir of the family, came himself with a hook and a pair of tongs, and, searching, found these ornaments, which he took away.

BORDESLEY ABBEY was founded by the Empress Maud in 1138, as a Cistercian abbey to the honor of the Blessed Virgin; but it is a curious fact that Walleran, Earl of Mellent, in one of his charters,* calls himself the founder, although he is actually a witness to the original and prior charter of Maud. It was very extensive, having occupied eight acres of ground; but very little is now left to gratify the antiquary, with the exception of St.

Stephen's

* Leland. Collect. Vol. I. p. 122, and Glover's Catalogue of Honour.

Stephen's chapel, which remains entire, though much altered by modern repairs. At the dissolution it was granted to Andrew, Lord Windsor, but not without an equivalent; for it is recorded by Dugdale and Collins, that soon after the dissolution, Henry VIII. being advised by Cromwell and others who had been his principal agents, that the most likely means to prevent the church lands from ever returning to their former uses, would be to dispose of them among the nobility and gentry, by free-gift, easy purchase, or advantageous exchange, the project hit his fancy, and he resolved to begin with Andrew, Lord Windsor. His majesty there sent him a message, that he would dine with him at Stanwell, near London; he came accordingly, and was elegantly entertained, but soon after dinner told his host, that he liked the place so well that he was resolved to have it, but not without a more beneficial exchange. Lord Windsor replied that he hoped he was not in earnest, as it had been the seat of his ancestors for many ages, and he, therefore, humbly begged that he would not take it from him: but Henry with a stern countenance, replied, "it must be so" and then ordered him to go immediately to his attorney-general, who would give him his reasons for it. On application to the lawyer, he found all the documents prepared for the exchange, and was actually obliged to complete it immediately, and to leave Stanwell for Bordesley abbey, though he had laid in his Christmas provisions upon his usual scale of hospitality. These, however, he left in the house, saying they should not find it *bare* Stanwell. The king was at length so much struck with the injustice of the measure, that he made him keeper of his great wardrobe.

REDDITCH lies to the south-east of this, on the borders of the county, but is only remarkable for a fair held the first Monday in August, for all sorts of cattle.

BEOLY to the north of this, had once a large and magnificent castle, whose ancient ruins can now scarcely be traced. Here are *Beoley Hall* and *Beoley Park*, but nothing particularly curious except

except the numerous and elegant monuments in the church, belonging to the Sheldon family.

UPTON WARIN is on the western side of the high road, between Droitwich and Bromsgrove. We mention it merely on account of the curious fact, that in 1319, William Fitz-warin, Lord of this manor, appeared before the Bishop of Worcester, and was condemned to pay seven-pence per week to *Alice* his wife; and the same day he swore to obey the orders of the church, and abjure Isabella de Kynlet, "under a penalty that if he should happen carnally to know the said Isabella, he would pay half a mark to the bishop, *for charity*."

GRAPTON HALL, is about a mile from Bromsgrove, and thus is described by Leland. "I came by a parke about a mile ere I came to Bromsgrove on the left hand. It is called Grafton. It longed before Bosworth field, to the Staffords, noble knyghtes. Since by attainder it came to the king, and was given by King Henry VII. to Sir Gilbert Talbot." In ancient times, this was a most capital mansion-house, as appears by all that remains of it since the fire in 1710, which, indeed, are nothing more than the porch and part of the hall, which latter has been converted into a chapel for a more recent building which has been added, but is now occupied by a farmer, or steward. Even these small remains of its ancient magnificence shew what it was, and the Gothic walls of the old chapel in particular are curious: as to the porch it is not older than the days of Elizabeth, and is ornamented, like the gate-way to the schools at Oxford, with the different orders of architecture. Little of the old furniture, or ornaments, was saved from the fire, except a picture of John, Earl of Shrewsbury, who died Marshall of France, in 1463; and a bust of Sir Gilbert Talbot, knight of the garter, which some wise-acre had afterwards disfigured, by causing it to be *shaved* and painted.

BELBROUGHTON lies about three miles north-west from Bromsgrove, and is remarkable on account of its fairs, which take place on the first Monday in April, and the Monday before
St.

St. Lukes (18th of October) for horned cattle, horses, and cheese.

We have no reason to believe this place to be more insalubrious than any other part of the county; yet it is a curious fact mentioned by a gentleman who had spent the greatest part of his youth here, that after an absence of no more than fourteen years, he met with only three people whom he had known formerly. "Such is the mutability," as he justly observes, "of this uncertain state."*

The church is a very handsome edifice, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, and is a rectory in the gift of St. John's College, Oxford. Here are still some remains of armorial windows, which have escaped the ravages both of the puritanic, and modern Goths more generally known by the appellation of *church-wardens*, who in their rage for beautifying, have destroyed almost every remnant of antiquity in many of our country churches.

We cannot here omit a simple, yet elegant monumental effusion, which connubial love has engraved on a tablet to the memory of a late rector, the Rev. Dr. Clarke.

"When sorrow weeps o'er virtue's sacred dust,

Our tears become us, and our grief is just;

Such were the tears she shed who grateful pays

This last sad tribute of her love and praise;

Who mourns the husband and the friend combin'd,

Where gentle pity met a manly mind;

Mourns, but not murmurs; sighs but not despairs;

Feels as a wife, but as a Christian bears."

FRANKLEY Chapelry lying north from Bromsgrove, gives the title of baron to the Lyttletons; and the chapel itself deserves notice, as it appears from its style, to be as old as the reigns of John or Henry III.; though many additions and alterations have since been made, particularly in 1751; when the whole fabric being dark and gloomy, with very small narrow windows, the chancel

* Gents. Mag. 1805, p. 505.

chancel much decayed, and the old wooden tower ready to fall, the parishioners began to repair it, and taking down the wooden tower, Sir Thomas Lyttleton, father of the first peer, gave them a quantity of stones from the ruins of the hall, to build a new one. New windows were also made at the same time; but though these have added much to the comfort and commodiousness of the chapel, they have destroyed much of its air of antiquity. A great improvement indeed took place, by Sir Thomas railing in a sufficient space of ground for a burial-place, as bodies formerly had always been interred in the chapel. From such repeated alterations, it is not to be expected that many memorials of tombs, or armorial windows should remain; and though Habyngdon's MSS. contain a very long list, yet it appears that the greatest part were destroyed in the civil wars.

A few miles further to the westward the tourist approaches the classic ground of

HAGLEY,

so justly called by the immortal poet of the seasons, the

“ —British Tempe ! There along the dale,
With woods o'erhung, and shagg'd with mossy rocks,—
There on each hand the gushing waters play,
And down the rough cascade white dashing fall,
Or gleam in lengthen'd vista through the trees.—

A late tourist has well described the approach, when he says that the face of nature is here suddenly changed into the lovely and picturesque; as here the road from Bromsgrove creeps through a deep hollow way cut out of the rock, that rises on each side crowned with shrubs and trees, and admits through the lengthened excavation, a pleasing vista of diversified scenery. This road brings the visitor to the VILLAGE of HAGLEY, where of course he will take up his quarters at the ‘ Lyttleton Arms’ a neat inn, with excellent temporary accommodations. The pleasantest rout from this to the park, is to proceed a little way through the village, and turn to the right on the Birmingham road, which cuts the

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To examine the house in the interior, it is usual to commence with the basement story, and to enter the *Bath*, a cool, commodious apartment, fitted up for its ostensible purpose, and lined with shells, spars, &c. like a grotto. This leads into the *Evidence-room*, filled with presses, containing leases and other documents, necessary to the operations of *Quarter-day*, which is always held in this apartment.

The present house was built by the first Lord Lyttelton, not *on*, but near to the scite of the ancient family mansion, an old-fashioned structure of the sixteenth century, which had been the hiding-place of two of the gunpowder-plot conspirators, Stephen Lyttelton and Robert Winter, who were betrayed, however, in a few hours by an under cook in the family; and Humphrey Lyttelton, the owner of the house at that time, who had received them into his protection, has been said to have escaped punishment solely by discovering the others at Hinlip. This, however, we have reason to disbelieve, from a careful examination of several MS. accounts of the transaction, now in the British Museum. A view of the old mansion is preserved in this apartment; and here is also a view of *Rockingham Hall*, in the village, mentioned as the rectory, the seat of the Rev. — Harrington.

The *HALL*, which we now proceed to, is thirty feet square, and the visitor is immediately struck with its simplicity and neatness. The chimney-piece is a handsome work in white marble, supported by two figures of Hercules, extremely well executed; but, as has often been the fate of genius, the artist died in distress. Here too are an elegant relief of Pan courting Diana, by *Vassali*; several casts in scagliola of Bacchus, Venus, Mercury, and a Corybant; some antique busts; two busts of Rubens and Vandyke by Rysbrack; and two very curiously carved mahogany tables, which cost 200*l*. Here too is a book, in which each visitor writes his name on going away.

The *LIBRARY* is thirty-three feet by twenty-five, and elegantly fitted up as a *domestic* apartment, and the cieling ornamented with scrolls of stucco. Over the book-cases, which

the grounds into two unequal parts. This leads him past some pleasant villas, particularly a large modern seat on the left, and the *Gothic rectory*, which is so situated as to appear part of the grounds, and at the same time to enjoy all the advantages resulting from this situation, as many of the ornamental buildings are on this side of the road.

Near this a stile, on the right hand, leads into the paddock, past the offices and gardens, which are convenient, but have nothing particularly deserving of examination, except to the mere botanist; and thence to the back front of the house, where a door in the basement story gives an opportunity of applying to the housekeeper for admission, which is always readily granted.

The present house, which has been well designated as a pleasant living one, and a well designed mean between the vast piles raised for magnificence, and those smaller ones, in which convenience is alone considered, is a plain and even simple, yet classical edifice, and though low in the park, is yet above the adjacent country, which it overlooks to a very distant horizon. It is surrounded by a lawn, of fine uneven ground, and diversified with large clumps, little groupings, and single trees; it is open in front, but covered on one side by the Witchbury hills; on the other side, and behind, by the eminences in the park, which are high and steep, and all overspread with a lofty hanging wood.* The lawn pressing to the foot, or creeping up the slopes of these hills, and sometimes winding along glades into the depth of the wood, traces a beautiful outline to a sylvan scene, already rich to luxuriance in massiness of foliage, and stateliness of growth.

Having walked round the house in order to form an idea of its situation, we shall now refer to the accompanying plate for its elevation and façade, merely stating that its form is a parallelogram, and that its south front is adorned with a light and elegant double range of steps, from the platform of which the prospect is very extensive. Those who have seen Nottingham Castle, will observe a great similitude in this instance between the two houses.

To

* Whately on Gardening, p. 196 et seq.

venerable name is held by the members of that society, that when one of his descendants applied for chambers within the house, it was immediately resolved by the Benchers, that he should be admitted without fine, or the customary fees, as a testimony of the high respect they felt for his ancestor, *Lord Keeper Lyttelton*, raised to the peerage in the reign of Charles I. for the purpose, as it was said, of furthering the plans of that monarch in his office of lord chancellor, to which dignity he was promoted at the recommendation of Land and Strafford. His refusal to vote on Strafford's trial, because he was a commoner when the impeachment took place, and therefore an accuser, has been severely animadverted upon, but perhaps too much with a spirit of party. *Sir Thomas Lyttelton*, father of the first lord; by Van Somer. *Dr. Charles Lyttelton*, brother of the first lord, originally intended for the bar, even practised as a barrister; but having changed that profession for the church, he became Bishop of Carlisle. *William Henry*, the late lord, who succeeded to the baronetage on the death of his nephew, *Thomas Lord Lyttelton*, the extraordinary circumstances attending whose death are well known. He was then an Irish peer, Lord Westcote, and since created an English baron. *Lieut. General Sir Richard Lyttelton*, fifth son of Sir Thomas, and brother to the first peer. He rose in his profession at an early period of his life; was first page of honour to Queen Caroline; then an ensign in the Guards; and afterwards master of the Jewel Office, governor of Guernsey and Minorca, and Knight of the Bath: this is by P. Battoni. *George Lord Lyttelton*, an elegant portrait by the venerable *West*. He was eldest son of Sir Thomas, and entered early upon the theatre of politics as an opposer of the *Walpole* administration. When his party came into power, he successively held the offices of lord of the treasury, cofferer of the household, a privy counsellor, and chancellor of the exchequer; and retired from public life with a peerage in 1757. His exquisite elegy on his first lady, will always be read with delight; but it has been said that he was not so happy in a second marriage. *Lucy, first Lady Lyttelton*. She was daughter of Hugh Fortescue of Devonshire,

vonshire, Esq. and the subject of the elegy. The beauty and sweetness of her countenance shew best what her lord's feelings must have been for her loss.

The GALLERY, eighty-five feet by twenty-two, is a most superb apartment, but so long in proportion to its breadth, as to require being formed into three divisions, by rows of double Corinthian pillars. The chimney-piece, the mirror frames, the frames of the elegant inlaid satin wood tables, and the girandoles, are all of exquisite carved work, in black and white, and done by an artist in the neighbourhood. Indeed, in the article of carving, this house surpasses any in the kingdom; and the present peer, who has but lately finished a complete refitting of the furniture, &c. has added many elegant specimens to those formerly executed. The paintings in this charming apartment are so numerous, as to afford us room for little more than a bare catalogue. *Virgin and Child*, by Vandyke: this is a noble piece; the Virgin's attitude is incomparably fine, and the air of her head exquisite; the child quite in character. Another *Madona and Christ* by old Stone; in this the child is natural and easy, its head thrown back playfully, and the face laughing; the finen is so well executed as to appear real. *Countess of Exeter* by Vandyke: very old and incomparably well executed. *Frances Duchess of Richmond*, by Peter Lely. Whoever has read the Memoirs of Grammont, must remember this lady, who was a distinguished character at the court of Charles II. of which she was generally considered not only as the brightest, but also the purest, gem. It is generally believed that Charles would have raised her to his throne, could he have divorced his queen; but her conquests were not confined to the court, for her fascinations extended to others; and it is said that Rotier, the medallist, was so passionately enraptured with her beauty, as to display her face as Britannia on many of his medals. *Sir William Fairfax*, of Steton, in Yorkshire. His daughter, *Catharine*, first wife of Sir Charles Lyttelton. She died at Jamaica in 1662. Lely. Her husband, *Sir Charles Lyttelton*, by Le Fevre. He is in armour, and at-

tended by a black boy. He was governor of Jamaica, and the founder of Port Royal; and afterwards governor of Sheerness, which, with many other employments, he held till the revolution. His loyalty during the civil wars was highly praiseworthy. *John Lyttelton*, a very fine piece by Zuccherò. He married into the Pakynton family; and was a great favourite both with Mary and Elizabeth, being a Catholic, but moderate without bigotry. *William Lord Brouncker*, another of Lely's. He is well known as an expert mathematician, and was the first president of the Royal Society, in whose apartments his portrait is still preserved. He was chancellor to Queen Catharine, and also a lord of the Admiralty. *Mary, Duchess of Buckingham*, by Vandyke. *Countess of Suffolk* and *Miss Brown*, both by Lely. *Anne, Countess of Southesk*: those who are fond of scandalous anecdote, may refer to Grammont's Memoirs, and to Burnet, Vol. I. p. 319. *James, Duke of Monmouth*; a capital picture by Lely of that unfortunate youth, the ancestor of the present Buccleugh family, and whose ambition brought him to the block in the reign of James II. *Oliver Cromwell*, accompanied by *Sir Peter Temple*. This is only a copy, but a very fine one by Jarvis, of two very intimate friends; the latter, however, though appointed a member of the High Court of Justice for the murder of Charles I. appears to have declined acting in that situation. *Sir Christopher Minns*, by Zoust. This hardy tar arose solely by his merit to the rank of admiral, being only the son of an honest shoemaker in London. He fell in the action with De Ruyter and Van Tromp, being shot twice through the neck on the fourth day. This picture, like several others at Hagley, had been in a bad state, but has been repaired and restored by the skill and ingenuity of Mr. Biggs, an intelligent artist; who, on clearing away the rust of time from this one, has discovered the name in its original spelling. *Princess of Orange*, mother of William III. by Gerard Honthurst. *Sir Thomas Clifford*, by Old Stone. He was lord treasurer, and a member of that administration, the initials of whose names, in the reign of Charles II. formed the

word

word "cabal." These were, Clifford, Ashley, Buckingham, Arlington, and Landerdale. He was the first Lord Clifford of Chudleigh, and long held many high offices, until the Test Act incapacitated him, being a Catholic.

The DRAWING ROOM is a most elegant apartment, thirty-four feet by twenty-two, and hung with the finest Gobeline tapestry. The cieling is exquisitely painted by Cipriani, and represents Flora scattering flowers in a central oval; her attitude elegant, and the colouring very fine: the Seasons are in the corners. The chimney-piece consists of scrolls of white marble, trained on Sienna, and its carving is very well executed. The ornaments of this room are well worth notice; the glass frames being elegantly carved and gilt; and the two branches on the chimney-piece of solid silver, consisting of oak branches and acorns, were lately executed at Birmingham, and cost 350*l*. The whole of this apartment has been completely restored by the taste of the present lord, who, at a very great expense, has repaired every thing throughout the house, and made it fully equal, nay, in some instances superior, to its first fitting up. Over the chimney-piece, inclosed in ornaments elegantly carved and gilt, is a portrait of *Lord Bath*, by Ramsay; there is another by the same artist of *Philip, first Earl of Hardwick*; also of *Lord Pelham*, *Sir William Pulteney*, *Lord Chesterfield*, and *Lord Cobham*, rendering this apartment one of the most interesting in the house.

The SALOON is thirty-six feet by thirty, elegantly fitted up, without any thing tawdry, but all conceived in the happiest taste, and as admirably executed. In fact, in passing through this whole suite of rooms, when we look at the paintings, and recollect the personages they represent, and the private history of the place itself, it is impossible not to feel a glow of veneration at every step, and to imagine almost that one sees the *former* inhabitants, on the opening of every door; and every apartment indeed seems as if *they* had just stepped out for a walk, so carefully has the present possessor preserved and repaired every vestige of those who must be remembered with pleasure, whilst taste and

genius have existence. Here is an extremely beautiful chimney-piece of white marble and Sienna, and the three marble Cupids in the centre, are a most exquisite group, which it is impossible too much to admire. The cornice too, supported by Ionic pillars, gives an air of great majesty to the apartment. The paintings are numerous. *Jacob and his Family*, by Bassano: this is a noble production; and the minute strength of expression in the figures to the left, is great in the extreme. This piece is 180 years old; but has been very judiciously restored by Mr. Biggs. *Venus reconciling herself to Psyche*. This figure, though a real Titian, is rather clumsy, but not quite so jolly as some of Rubens's. The Cupid is drawn in a most expressive attitude; and his air and countenance present a most humorous illustration of the mythological story. The colouring has been very fine; but time has impaired much of its brilliancy. *Queen Henrietta Maria*. This is such an exquisitely fine painting, and the countenance is so lovely, that the visitor can scarce leave it for any thing else. Of all the beautiful pictures of that queen, this is the most beautiful. *Charles I.* by Stone. *His family*, by Vandyke. There is something highly ludicrous in the ideas which associate with this piece, when we see James II. a sprawling, squalling infant in his nurse's lap, and recollect that he lost three kingdoms for a mass. *Marriage of Neptune and Cybele*; a piece from the united pencils of Teniers and Rubens. This is a symbolical representation of the Earth and Water producing Plenty; and is done in the *great* style of both these masters of the art, Cybele being a lusty Teutonic dame, coarse in her figure, and disgusting in her attitude; yet the piece, *as a painting*, has its merit, and will not be slightly passed over by the connoisseur. The laughing countenances of the children are well imagined; the grouping fine; but the colouring, particularly the whites, rather faded. *Countess of Portland*; and *Hay, Earl of Carlisle*; both by Vandyke.

This apartment is generally used as a summer dining-room, and with great propriety, for the view from its windows is perhaps
its

its greatest beauty, comprehending the lofty column with the late Prince of Wales's statue, the Temple of Theseus, and Obelisk on Witchbury hill, and Milton's seat in the park.

The *Little Cabinet* contains some very striking pieces. *Dead Christ*, with the two sisters by Vandyke, is an astonishing effort of the pencil, and is both affecting and sublime; the body, though dead, still bears the mark of its divine origin; we almost expect to see it resuscitate; and nothing can be more expressive of sorrow, mixed with religious hope, than the countenances of the females. *Head of Pompey brought to Cæsar*. This elegant piece of historic painting, is from the pencil of the late ingenious Dr. Wall of Worcester: and does honour to his taste and judgment. *Flemish Cabinet Piece* of an old fiddler, deserves particular examination amongst a variety of others of the same size.

The GENTLEMAN'S DRESSING ROOM, contains the *Misers*, by Quintyn Matsys, the blacksmith of Antwerp: this is called here *the original*: but if so, there must also be *another* original at Windsor. This piece, however, is valued at 3000*l.* for the guide says that sum has been offered for it. *Lot and his Daughters*, by Luca Giordano; in this, the subject of which cannot be called a pleasing one, the figure of Lot is considered as very striking, as far as concerns the relief of the limbs, particularly the legs; but the daughters, like the conduct of the originals, are rather disgusting. *Admiral Smith*, a well done portrait. *Holy family in Egypt*, by Poussin: admirable. In the BLUE BED ROOM are, *Sir Charles Lyttelton*; *Christ and the adulteress*, by Varotari, a pupil of Paul Veronese, in which, by a strange anachronism, the painter has put spectacles on one of the Jewish elders; *Sir Francis Vere*, a gallant knight of the 16th century, and Governor of Flushing in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, with whom he was a favourite for his martial abilities; a most luscious and luxuriant portrait of *Louise de Querouaille, Duchess of Portsmouth*, by Le Fevre, a favorite mistress of Charles II. and whose machinations, as a pensioned emissary of the French king, had during that reign a powerful influence on English politics.

The BLUE DRESSING ROOM has *Christ and his disciples at Emmaus*, by Le Brun: *William of Nassau, Prince of Orange*, founder of the Dutch republic; this does not bespeak either the statesman or the soldier, but is a heavy figure, and rather melancholy than thoughtful; yet we see notwithstanding, by the expression of the eyes, that the original was capable of being warmed into spirit and enthusiasm; *Queen of Bohemia*; and *Lady Crompton*; both by Jansen, and at a first glance may be supposed to be sisters; *Landscape* by Wotton; this is a fine specimen of the English school, but some of the lights seem to have been injudiciously managed.

In this range of apartments there are also, a *Venus lamenting over a dead Adonis*, in which the dead body is superlatively fine, and the relaxation of the muscles most anatomically natural, but the Venus is very indifferent, and her attitude by no means a civil one; also many family portraits, the very enumeration of which would fill a volume.

Fully satiated with paintings, carving, and gilding, &c. the visitor is now anxious to take a ramble in the park, through which we shall accompany him to the church, which stands embosomed in trees, a short distance from the house. Here there is something peculiarly solacing in the gloom, and the contrast is striking between the humble graves without, and the magnificent *mausolea* within. In the very centre of the unhonoured dead, lies in all humility Mrs. Muriel Lyttelton, under a plain tomb according to her own desire. This estimable lady recovered the family estates by petition, after their forfeiture by her husband, and brought up her children, the *first Protestants* of the family. The body of the church is very ancient, being dedicated to St. John the Baptist in the reign of Henry III. and consists of two aisles, the southern one being anciently called the *Virgin Mary's*. A sublime Gothic arch leads into the chancel, which was rebuilt in 1754, of free-stone, and ornamented with a rich east window of painted glass. Lord Lyttelton, (the first peer) by whom this was done, had the floor also paved with white stone, and gave a thorough repair

repair to the whole body of the church. The lover of heraldry will here be much pleased with the cieling of the chancel, as both it and the cornice are covered with armorial shields of the whole line of ancestry of the family from the foundation of the church, the coats impaled with those of their wives, and some of the shields containing the various quarterings belonging to them by descent. In the chancel is the elegant monument of George; the first lord's lovely wife Lucy, on the north side, consisting of an urn on a pedestal, all of white marble; on the front of which, is exquisitely carved in relief, a female face in profile, and under it, "*Lucia!*" whilst the figure of Hymen rests on the pedestal with his torch extinct, weeping and looking towards the urn. The English epitaph is well known, but we shall here give our fair readers, a translation of the Latin one. "Sacred to the memory of Lucy Lyttelton, descended from the ancient family of Fortescue; who, gifted with the most exquisite form, the sweetest disposition, and the most ingenious mind, and skilled in elegant accomplishments even beyond her sex and age, was the subject of the highest praise, without the slightest tincture of pride; and having spent a chaste and virtuous life, expired immaturesly in the 29th year of her age, in parturition of her third child, on the 19th of June 1746, lamented even by those who knew her least. To the memory of a beloved wife, the fifth year of conjugal felicity not yet passed, George Lyttelton has placed this monument of love and esteem; he also yet remains, but shall be interred in the same sepulchre, trusting through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, that all sorrows will be done away in eternity, and that he will rise to enjoy with her, the delights of a better life."

He indeed now also lies here under a plain stone, with this inscription:—

"This unadorned stone was placed here by the particular desire, and express direction, of the Right Hon'ble George, Lord Lyttelton, who died August 22d, 1773, aged 64." The urn on the north side is fronted by a beautiful antique urn of statuary marble, to the memory of the parents of the first peer.

Leaving

Leaving this sombre scene, we now proceed through a wood by the side of a purling stream, which meanders through a dark hollow; then winding up a hill, pass a small cataract, but quite in miniature, until we reach the Prince of Wales's pillar, seen from the saloon. From this point of view the prospect is inexpressibly beautiful, and it is with much regret we leave it to pursue our route through the wood, with a fine view on the left of the Witchbury hills and distant grounds, as far as an octagon seat sacred to the memory of Thomson, and erected on the brow of a verdant steep his favourite spot. Let us now view the scenery in detail. In the fore-ground is a gently winding valley, which loses itself on either hand amongst the trees; on the rising hill beyond is a noble wood, some of whose detached parts seem to feather the descent of its swelling sides, whilst to the right the open country fades in the distance; on the left the Clent hills appear, and a dusky antique tower stands just below them at the extremity of the wood, whilst in the midst of it, we can discern the Doric temple sacred to Pope, and part of its lawn in front; forming a simple scene, yet consisting of great features.

We now pass Jacob's well, and enter a solemn grove of oaks, from whence we catch a glance of the antique tower, or ruinous castle, now seen to be on the top of a hill gently rising out of the wood. We next come to an Ionic rotunda, inclosed in a beautiful amphitheatre of wood; the trees which surround it are very large, but their foliage is not very thick, and the partial lights breaking through their ramifications, produce the most pleasing sensations; for here we seem lost to the world, it is so retired, without any visible outlet, and without any prospect except upon a deep shaded piece of water in a thick embowering grove, at the end of which is a Palladian bridge, with a light airy portico. The grove behind the rotunda must now be passed, when we enter upon a large, airy, forest glade, thinly skirted with wood, careless of ornament, and much overgrown with fern; all which, added to the number of deer, which start at every instant at the sound of footsteps, make us for a while suppose ourselves in a pathless forest. Indeed this wild-

ness,

ness, such is the effect of contrast, is a most acceptable relief, even in the midst of such elegance and improvement as reign in the neighbouring lawns. The place in itself too is pleasant; the view in parts is unconfined; and from a Gothic seat at the end is a perspective view of that wood and tower seen before in front, together with the Witchbury hills, and a wide range of country. The Tower, which in every point of view is always connected with wood, stands, however, on a piece of down, which stretches along the broad ridge of a hill, and spreads on each hand for some way down the sides; thick groves catch the falls; the descent on the right is soon lost under the trees; a wood hangs on the declivity, which is continued in the valley beneath; the tower overlooks the whole, and to it we now ascend; after wandering along the path which leads by the stream to a fine lawn inclosed by wood, till we reach the urn inscribed to Pope, from whence the ascent soon becomes rapid. The tower, with its accompaniments, seems the remains of a baronial castle, so judicious are all its parts, though of modern date; it is partly entire, partly in ruins, and in some places overgrown with bushes, so as to appear quite deserted, though inhabited by the game-keeper's family. It is every way an interesting object, and a finer situation cannot be imagined; it is placed indeed on an exposed, but unfrequented spot, but commands a beautiful view down upon the woods, lawns, and slopes, and a most extensive prospect including Worcester, Malvern, Dudley, the Cleebills, Wrekin at a distance of forty miles, and even the hills of Radnorshire at a distance of eighty. Following the path, we pass under the canopy of umbrageous oaks, by the side of a winding woody hollow, to the seat of *contemplation*, a place well adapted for that purpose, as the view is only down into the hollow among the trees.

At the end of the valley, in an obscure corner, and shut out from all view, is a *hermitage*, composed of roots and moss; high banks, and a thick covert darkened with horse-chesnuts, confine the sequestered spot; a small rill trickles through the valley and

we look down on a piece of water in the hollow, thickly shaded with tall trees, over which is a fine view of distant landscape. The water is seen on one side through groupings of planting; the other side is open, but covered with fern. This spot is the extremity of the park, and the Clent hills rise in all their wild irregularity, immediately behind it.

The other descent from the castle* is a long declivity, covered like the rest with noble woods, in which fine lawns are again embosomed, differing still from the former, and from each other; in one the ground is very rough, the boundary is much broken, and marked only by the trunks of the trees which shoot up high before their umbrageous cover spread forth. The next is more simple; falling into one large hollow that almost imperceptibly sinks into the covert. This has a communication through a short glade, and between two groves, with another called the *Tivian* lawn, from the resemblance which it is said to bear to those so celebrated in Anson's voyage; it is encompassed with the stately trees, all fresh and vigorous, and so full of leaf that not a stem, not a branch, appears, but large masses of foliage only describe an undulating outline: the verdure of the turf is as luxuriant as in the open lawns; the ground gently waves in easy swells; no strong lines are drawn; no striking objects are even admitted; but all is of an even temper, all mild, placid, and serene; in the gayest season of the day, not more than cheerful; in the stillest hour of night, not gloomy. This scene is indeed peculiarly adapted to the tranquillity of the latter, when the moon seems to repose her light on the thick foliage of the grove, and steadily marks the shade of every bough; it is delightful then to saunter here, and see the grass, and the gossamer which entwines it, glistening with dew; to listen and hear nothing stir, except perhaps a withered leaf dropping gently through a tree; and sheltered from the chill, to catch the freshness of the evening air: a solitary urn, chosen by Mr. Pope for the spot, and now inscribed to his memory, when
shewn

* Wheatley on Gardening, p. 200.

shewn by a gleam of moonlight through the trees, fixes thoughtfulness and composure, to which the mind is insensibly led by the rest of this elegant scene.

Crossing over again to the walk leading from the hermitage, we come to the *root-house*, a retired cave at one end of a piece of water, whilst a cell of grotto-work contrasts it at the other end. Winding now up the hill, we arrive at a bench, looking down upon a great extent of lawn, thinly clumped, and from this point of view the house is seen in great perfection. Turning to the right, we enter a grove carpetted with the finest verdure, and leading through a cool sequestered hollow, from which breaks forth a charming glance of Thomson's seat; beyond, on a green hill whose top just peeps above the trees, the temple of Theseus is partly seen, with the Grecian portico finely backed by a darkening grove. We now ramble through the grove to a seat dedicated to "quiet and the muses," and the path leads us into the principal hollow of the park, a fine dell over-arched with wood, and ornamented with the principal waters. On the right a spring gushes over rock-work, and, falling into a stream in the hollow, is joined by another rill which murmurs over broken rocks; on crossing these we catch a glimpse of Shenstone's urn, and shortly after, entering a thick grove, we are tempted to sit down, by a bench which encircles a vast oak, and commands an immense variety of scenery. Shortly after a sequestered moss-seat, over-arched with tall spreading trees, and surrounded with banks of shrubby wood, of moss and ivy, leads the eye to contemplate a cascade bursting out of an ivied bank, breaking over a ground of rock, moss, and ivy, and losing itself amidst the thickest shrubs, while in a sweet little watery cave of the rock, is a leaden statue of the Venus de Medicis, as if just stepping into the translucent stream. Winding along the water, we come to the Palladian bridge, supporting a portico of the Ionic order, and from which there is a direct view up the whole line of water, with a charming rotunda crowning the whole: after which some nicely gravelled walks lead us into the central lawn, and towards the gate of entrance.

The

The whole of this is kept in such order, that there is perhaps scarcely a shade of difference since the *classic days* of Hagley; and indeed the whole, even in the wildest scenes, is as neat as a garden, the present owner having a number of women employed constantly in raking up the leaves and dressing the lawns, so as not only to preserve the strictest neatness, but also giving employment to the industrious poor. Gravel walks are conducted across all the glens, through the woods, the groves, or the thickets, and along the sides of the lawns; concealed from the sight in the views, but always easy in communication, and leading imperceptibly, and without any chance of straying, to all the principal scenes. The several lawns too, are separated by the finest trees; * which sometimes grow in airy groves, chequered with gleams of light, and open to every breeze; but more frequently their great branches meeting or crossing each other, cast a deep impenetrable shade. Large boughs feathering down often intercept the sight; or a vacant space is filled with coppice wood, nut, hawthorn, and hornbeam, whose tufted heads mixing with the foliage, and their little stems clustering about the trunks of the trees, thicken and darken the plantation. In some places the shade is high over-arched by the tallest ash, or spreads under the branches of the most venerable oaks. These rise in every shape; they are disposed in every form; the ground beneath them is sometimes almost level, sometimes a gentle swell. In several places large hollows wind down the sides of the hills, worn in the winter months by water courses, but worn many ages ago, for very old oaks in the midst of the channels prove their antiquity. Some of these glens wind amongst currents and waterfalls, broken by large loose stones, or the stumps of dead trees; in others they meander through a deep gloom overhung with ash and oak, and darkened below by yews scattered over uneven ground; sometimes encompassed by a thick covert, under which fall streams from stony channels down the impending rocks, they lead into the darkest shade, and burst at once into glaring day.

In

* Wheatley on Gardening, p. 200.

In short, art and nature here seem to go hand in hand in friendly rivalry!

We cannot quit this spot without adverting to circumstances too publicly known, to require any delicacy of concealment, and which, in fact, are not drawn behind the veil of secrecy by remaining relatives; for Mr. Warner, in his tour, observes, that the *Ghost Story* respecting a late possessor of this charming spot, and which is too well known to require description, is actually believed by some of the family, so far as regards the reality of the supernatural appearance to his lordship, as a very near relative of his had a painting drawn of the occurrence, in which he is represented in bed, at the foot of which stands a small female figure, bearing upon her finger a little bird, whilst several spirits of a different nature, are hovering round his head; such being the vision, according to his account to his valet, that had notified to him his death at a particular hour. To this he adds a story, which, though simple in its details, may not prove uninteresting. He observes, that, amidst all those courtesies of wit, and flashes of merriment, which incessantly emanated from this young, gay, and dissipated, though actually not unamiable, nobleman, his heart was wrung with everlasting care, and his soul harrowed by superstitious alarms. Of the truth of which he adduces the following instance:

A very few months before he died, he made a visit to the seat of Lord ———, an old friend and neighbour. The mansion was then old and gloomy, and well calculated to affect an imagination that could be easily acted upon; the spirits of his lordship appeared to be agitated on entrance, but after a time his accustomed hilarity returned; the magic of his tongue enraptured the circle, and all apparently was festivity and delight. As the night waned, and the hour of repose approached, his lordship's powers of conversation became still more extraordinary; the company were rivetted to their chairs, and as often as the clock admonished them to depart, so often did he prevail upon them to forget the admonition, by a fresh stock of anecdote, or a new

chain of witticisms. At length, however, the party broke up, and retired to their rooms; where, after a short time, Lord — was surprised by the hasty intrusion of his friend Lord L. who, with a countenance of horror and consternation, requested that he might be allowed to sleep in the same room with him, as he had been frightened with the creaking of the floors when he first entered the house, and was not able to conquer the alarm which the noise had excited in his mind! From this it may easily be conceived, that the so much talked of vision was nothing more than a dream working upon a disturbed imagination; particularly if it be true, that on the night of his death, one of his party of friends, considering the whole as a silly alarm, put the clock forward about ten minutes, so that his lordship was alive at midnight *apparently*, when the company laughing at his fears, immediately separated to their apartments. His lordship retired to his room, and sent his valet for some thing; who, when he returned, found him dead, with his watch in his hand, then just past the hour of twelve; so that it has been rationally conjectured, that Lord L. looking at his watch, and finding the so much dreaded hour, *not past*, but just arrived, may have been terrified by the circumstance, and thus verified the prediction, which, owing to the unfortunate officiousness of his friend, he thought he had escaped.

Besides the house and grounds of *Hagley*, there is much in its neighbourhood to excite and to gratify curiosity; particularly some specimens of Roman antiquity, consisting of a large camp on *Winchbury Hill*, having on the south side a double *agger*, forming a deep ditch, now covered with wood. It is also worthy of notice how much this neighbourhood was indebted to the first Lord *Lyttelton*, in many points of view; for Mr. Young observes, in one of his earliest tours, that *Draining*, then pretty well understood in this district, owes much of its improvement to that poet, who, with great judgment, ordered many drains to be dug on his farms, of various depths, and three or four inches wide at bottom; the method used in filling them on grass land, where

they were chiefly made, was to take the first spits of turf, and wedge them into the drains, and then throw in the mould, without stone, wood, or any thing else; yet the drains thus made stood exceedingly well, and had never failed. It is an excellent contrivance, he adds, and highly worthy of imitation, and especially in countries where stone and wood are scarce.

In the British Museum, * there is a curious MS. called a "True declaration of the flight and escape of Robert Winter, Esq. and Stephen Lyttelton, gent. the strange manner of their living in concealment so long time; how they shifted to several places, and in the end were descried and taken at Hagley, being in the house of Mr. Lyttelton.

"The old bloody hunting-match of Dunchurch being ordered and appointed by Sir Everard Digby, Knt. for surprising the Princess Elizabeth, whose residence was near that place, Maister Catesby writ unto Maister Humphry Lyttleton, intreating him to meet him at Dunchurch." Stephen and others also met, but the conspirators having their powder destroyed by accident, and the sheriffs besetting the house at Holbeach, in Lincolnshire, where they had joined several of the other conspirators, Stephen Lyttelton and Winter escaped, and getting undiscovered into Worcestershire, were concealed for some time in a barn at Rowley, Regis; but being afraid of discovery, "Maister Humphrey Lyttelton, commonly called there red Humphry, because there is another Humphrey Lyttelton beside, taking advantage of his sister-in-law's absence, handled the matter in such sort, that about eleven o'clock in the night-time he had conveyed them to Hagley-house, not making any one of his council but one John Fynes, alias Jobber, the Cook."

Meat was soon procured for the half-starved fugitives; "but wanting drink, they knew not well how to sted themselves, because the butler was in bed, and calling so late to him for the key might perhaps prove suspicious. Therefore the cook gave this advice, that his mother selling drink in the town, he would

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forthwith

* Ayscough's Collection, 4160. 138.

God, John Arundell, Bushop of Coventry and Litchfield on the one ptie and Sir William Littleton Knight on the other ptie witnesseth that ye. said pties have agreed that ye. sayde Sir William, &c. shall take to wife Maria Whityngton daughter of William Whityngton late of Pauntely Esquier deceased and of Elizabeth likewise sister to ye. said Bushop, if ye. said Mary will therto assent, and for ye. which marridge to be had and solemnized, the said Bushop. granteth by these presents to pay to ye. said Sir William Littleton CCCC marks of lawful money, &c."

From the same MS. we extract a specimen of a *poetical*, or rather *rhyming* pedigree, said to be "out of an ould Roll brought from Sawford, in Warwickshire."

"Here cometh Thomas Littleton with the long barde,
He married with the Cater mayde, and was not aserde;
And betweene to they had on mayden child and no more.

And then cometh on Thomas Wescot out of ye Court,
And married with the mayde without doubt,
And between them they had children many a on,
The eldest was christened Thomas Littleton at ye *seantimon*.

And the sayde Sir Thomas Littleton without any nay,
Married with on of the daughters of Boxloy,
And betweene them to thay had sonnes three,
The names of them you may see.

Sir William Littleton Knight the eldest Richard Littleton the
Second Sonne Thomas Littleton being the younger brother
Of all three chanced well as this matter beareth record
Hoe married with a daughter of Botrux and aier of Sauford.
Betwyn them had Children as I you now show
One of them was a Priest and Parson of Munslow, &c."

The CLENT HILLS, which form such a conspicuous object in this neighbourhood, and up which part of Hagley Park rises, are in a great measure indeed in Staffordshire, but were once actually all in Worcestershire; and a tradition prevails here, that when

the Romans were encamped on Witchbury, the Britons had their station opposite to them on Clent Hill, from whence they descended to that part of the common, now called Clent heath, as did the enemy from Witchbury, and there came to an engagement. Leland says, that Clent* was then commonly called "Cowdale," from a white cow, the mark of the sepulchre of Kenelm, King of the West Saxons, slain in that vale, according to the old monkish rhyme,

" In Clent sub spina, jacet in convalli bovina,
Vertice truncatus Kenelmus rege creatus."

He adds, that his sister, Quendreda, was a witch, and caused his death by means of "Askebert;" but at the funeral her eyes dropped out upon her psalter!

These hills afford some pleasing prospects; the ground of which is rude and broken; often overspread with large and beautiful woods; and dignified with numerous seats of the nobility and gentry. The hills themselves are very irregular; large advanced promontories frequently interrupt the sight, and vary the scene; in other parts, deep vallies shelving down towards the country below exhibit the objects there in different lights. In one of these hollows is built a neat cottage, under a deep descent, sheltered besides by plantations, and presenting ideas of retirement in the midst of so much open exposure. From the height above it are seen the WITCHBURY HILLS, over Hagley Park, rising into three beautiful swells; one of them covered with wood; another an open sheep-walk, with an obelisk on the summit; and on the third, the portico of the Temple of Theseus, already spoken of, exactly on the model of that at Athens, and but little less in its dimensions. This stands boldly out upon the brow, is backed by the dark ground of a fir plantation, and has a most majestic appearance above the surrounding steeps. At the foot of Clent is a tower, built for an object from some parts of the grounds; its white battlements, rising from the dark green wood, have a striking effect.

PED-

* Leland. Collect. Vol. I. p. 212.





OLD MONTFORD.

PEDMORE lies about one mile north of Hagley, on the Stour-bridge road. It is a small village, with an ancient church, of which the south door-way, and perhaps the arch which divides the body of the church and chancel, are as old as the Saxon times. The porch contains a curious piece of Saxon Sculpture over the inner door, representing the Deity surrounded by the symbols of the four evangelists, &c.

SWINFORD village, is a little beyond Pedmore, and is neat and populous. The Gothic church is in high preservation, with a very lofty and handsome spire. It would, as Dr. Nash observes, be the highest ingratitude to the memory of a most worthy man, not to mention the *Hospital* endowed in this parish, by Thomas Foley, Esq. the charitable ancestor of that name; who, at the time he gave to this charity an estate then worth 600*l.* per annum, had five children unsettled and unprovided for. The benefaction, consisting of long leases, is much improved, and goes on improving, having 1500 acres of land, besides tythes and other emoluments, and the boys were admitted during his own lifetime, and seven years before his death, in 1677. Of the sixty boys the family only appoint fourteen; the rest are in the gift of the parish. This noble charity lies a little to the left of the High road, and being a building of the age of Queen Elizabeth, or James I. has quite the air of an ancient college; which is further heightened by the appropriate dress of the boys, similar to that of Christ's Hospital; and the regulations of the colleges for such are much the same. Considerable improvements are taking place in it, by the pulling down of old walls, and making a freer circulation of air, &c. *

P 3

In

* At Woscot, in this parish, in 1741, some farmers killed a most uncommon species of *Lizard* of the green kind, which was two feet six inches long, and four inches in girth. The fore legs were placed eight inches from the head; the hind legs five inches beyond those; the legs were two inches long; the feet divided into four toes, each furnished with a sharp claw. About the same time, another of the same species was killed near Tenbury; but nothing has ever been known of their origin. Pennant's *Zoology*, Vol. III. p. 21.

In this parish is the town of

STOURBRIDGE,

whose name is evidently derived from the bridge built over the river Stour. There is no account of its existence before the reign of Henry VI. at least by its present name; but there was a hamlet called *Bedcote*, which appears from various evidences to have been situated here, and of sufficient consequence to induce the King's Judges to adjourn a court there, from Kidderminster, whilst sitting upon a special commission respecting some riots in the time of Edward III.

Tanner tells us, that King Æthelbert, in 736, gave to the Earl Cynebalt, lands upon the river Stour, to build a monastery, which seems to have come afterwards to the church of Worcester. The charter may be seen in *Monast. Ang. Vol. I. p. 121*, which appears to point out this as the place: some, however, have doubted this.

Being long but a hamlet to Swinford, though at present a large and populous town, it had until the reign of Henry VIII. a chapel dependent on the mother church *, of which, however, it is curious to remark, all tradition had been lost; and it was not until the year 1742 that a chapel was erected by subscription, and afterwards by Act of Parliament made parochial and independent of the old church.

This chapel is built of brick, in a very good style of architecture, standing on the western skirts of the town; and there are also several meeting-houses for various classes of Protestant dissenters, who form a very respectable part of the *population*, which in 1801 amounted to 3431, inhabiting 760 houses.

The *Free School* was founded by Edward VI. but there was one prior to that reign; for, as far back as 1450, the stipendiary priest, who did duty in the chapel "used to keep a *schole* at Sturbridge, and stood charged to teach the poor children freely." The present one is handsomely endowed, and under the care of eight governors, selected from residents in the parish; many of these

* Vide Register of Silvester, Bishop of Worcester.

these gentlemen have been generous in the augmentation of the library, and many benefactions have at different times been given to the school.

The *market*, which is always well attended, is on Friday; and there are two *fairs*: one on the 29th of March, very noted for horses and cattle; another on September the 8th for all sorts of cattle and sheep.

The *manufactures* here are various. Some cloth is made, and that very fine and good, from British wool only. The mines of *coal* (which, however, are in Staffordshire) and those of *crucible clay*, afford considerable employment to the numerous population of the town and neighbourhood. In iron, though they manufacture all articles, yet the principal trade is in nails; and it appears from a MS. in possession of the Lyttelton family, that coal and iron stone were worked here as early as the reign of Edward III. A good deal of business is done also in the Skinner's way, or that of manufacturing sheep-skins into leather; but the principal object is that of the GLASS MANUFACTURE.

In this branch of manufacture great quantities of *white glass* are made, and *cut* with an extreme degree of elegance; a manufacture in which we now excel, though not introduced here until 1557, at which period the Venetians had for many years surpassed all other nations, being indeed, until the thirteenth century, the only people possessing the secret of making what is called the *crystal* looking-glasses. Our great improvements in this branch of trade may perhaps be dated from the period when we substituted *coals* for *wood* in the process, which was in London, in 1635, though the finer branches of the manufacture were not attempted for many years afterwards; but whoever examines the specimens of cut glass in Hagley House, which were all done at Stourbridge, will be convinced that we now at least rival, if we do not surpass, all other nations.

This town has now the advantage of the Staffordshire canal, which passes a little to the westward of it; and, upon the whole,

it may justly be considered as a place of present wealth, and increasing opulence.

DUDLEY,

which is a few miles north of the last mentioned, is partly in Staffordshire, and is in fact completely insulated by that county.

The name is supposed to have originated from *Dodo*, the famous Saxon, who raised the first fortification on the scite of the present ruinous *Castle*, standing on a hill above the town; and of which, as the gateway and wall are actually in Worcestershire, we shall give a slight sketch. At a distance its situation and effect are very striking, as it stands upon the summit of that limestone hill, described under the head of *mineralogy*, frowning upon the town and valley beneath, and extending its prospect over seven English, and two Welch counties, including eighteen churches, many large towns, and a tract of country intersected by lofty ranges of mountains, and diversified by the abodes of wealth and elegance. On a nearer approach, however, much of this effect is lost; for there is nothing to soften down the harshness of outline of the bare walls, most incongruously associated with, not contrasted by, mere modern buildings, whose deficiency in the picturesque destroy every idea of sombre grandeur that might arise in the mind. This want of wood is much to be regretted, particularly as the hill was once well covered; but perhaps nothing else could be expected in the very vicinity of a manufacturing town, after the building became uninhabitable. This building was once very extensive, occupying an acre of ground: and, though begun in the eighth century, consists now of dilapidated fragments of different styles of architecture, among which the keep stands pre-eminent, owing to its great original strength. In this part of the castle was the chapel, of which two windows, rich in tracery, still remain; and here too the vestiges of the dungeon may still be seen. It had solely been considered as a military fortress until the time of Charles I.; and during the civil wars, was, in 1644, gallantly defended by Lieutenant-Colonel Beaumont for three weeks, against the Parliament army,

army, and at length released by the king's troops: but at the restoration it was dismantled, and the scite sold; after which the lands, containing both the castle and town, came by marriage to the ancestor of the present noble family of Dudley and Ward. Like all other ruinous buildings, it has been the scene of the superstitious tales of the neighbourhood; but it is asserted, on good authority, that, whilst lying desolate in the early part of the last century, a troop of coiners fixed their abode in its dreary apartments, where they carried on their nefarious trade for some time, eluding suspicion by terrifying those who might be prompted by curiosity to visit the place, which they performed by imposing on their credulous and superstitious neighbours, with strange noises, alarming appearances, and all the paraphernalia of a haunted castle. From this trade, however, they were expelled by a fire in 1750, which completely produced a scene of desolation such as we now witness: but part of the keep has been lately fitted up by Lord Dudley.

A *Monastery* was founded here by Gervase Paganel, lord of the manor in 1161. In 1190 Pope Lucius, by his bull, granted, that, in case of a general interdiction of the kingdom, the monks of that priory might privately, their doors being shut, and without sound of bell, perform divine service in a low voice, all interdicted or excommunicated persons being first put forth! At present, even the very ruins of the monastery are destroyed, except some unintelligible fragments; and the only remains which have withstood the ravages of time, and the destroying hand of man, are those of the conventual church, whose rich Gothic window at the east end of the building, and some beautiful mouldings in other parts, faintly portray its original splendour. On the south side of this window there is also a niche and canopy for an image, once richly ornamented. The west end is built with a coarser and redder stone than that used in the other parts of the building: and all the arches appear to have been Gothic. *Erdestwick* says, that in his time, there were in this church several good monuments of the Someries and other families; one of which, he adds, "was cross-legged, and a very old one, having a picture over it full
eight

eight feet long; neither was the person lesser of stature, for the coffin wherein the charnel was laid, being of free-stone, and hewed hollow, answerable to the proportion of a man; the hollow was also eight feet, so that the body could be *no less*; for if it had, it could not with conveniency have been laid in it!" We give this strange quotation verbatim, as it displays a most *curious* mode of ratiocination. Both to the east and west of the ruins, are large pools of water, apparently the remains of a moat,* which once encompassed the whole priory; and a little to the north, are traces of several large fish-ponds. The shattered walls of some of the offices were some years ago patched up into a dwelling and conveniencies for a tanner, but since occupied by a manufacturer of thread; and in the process of clearing away the rubbish, several of the coats of arms, set up against the walls, have at various times been found. Now they are let in different tenements to several manufacturers, who grind glass, polish steel work, &c.

There are now two *Churches* belonging to the town, but both united in one vicarage: in these some panes of painted glass still remain; and there are several monuments of ancient knights in armour, with their ladies, &c. Nor will the heraldic tourist be disappointed in his research after blazonry. On the outside of St. Thomas's Church, under an ancient arch at the end of the chancel, are still some remains of mouldering dames and knights, now almost effaced, from the effects of time, and the rude hands of vulgar ignorance. Here also are three *Charity Schools*, one of which was founded by *Mr. Richard Foley*, of Stourbridge, for fifty boys, in the year 1634, and of this the pious *Baxter* was the first master. The others are, a free-school for the education of girls, and a free grammar-school; and there are no less than seven Sunday schools.

The *Market* is on Saturday; and there are three *Fairs*: May 8, for cattle, wool, and cheese; August 5, for sheep, lambs, and cattle; October 2, for horses, cattle, wool, and cheese.

The *Manufactures* are iron and glass; in aid of which there

is

* Grose's Antiquities.

is the Dudley Canal, and also the Dudley Extension Canal, both of which we must refer to their proper counties, except where they actually run in this county. The Extension, as it is called, has two collateral cuts from Windmill-End, from whence to Dudley there is a fall of sixty-four feet: the principal line of the Dudley Canal, properly speaking, after passing Combeswood and Halesowen, is crossed by the high road close to the Leasowes, where it enters a very long tunnel of two miles, and thence falls into the Worcester and Birmingham Canal near Sellyoak. Its course on this line is ten miles and a half, quite on a dead level.

When the census of *population* was taken in 1801, this town had only between 8 and 9000 inhabitants; but, by the late report, there are 6961 males, and 6964 females, making a total of 13,925: an inequality of sexes, and an increase almost astonishing. When there is such an extended population, accompanied by affluence, improvements in sociability will naturally take place; of course, at the principal inn, the Dudley Arms, we find a handsome assembly room, music gallery, &c. which are, at the proper season, filled with as much beauty and elegance, as any of the neighbouring counties can boast.

KIDDERMINSTER

lies a few miles to the south-west of our last station, at a distance of 124 miles from the metropolis. It is very extensive; and though it lies in a bottom chiefly, yet the streets are well paved, kept in general very clean, and indeed the greatest attention seems to be paid to the comfort and salubrity of the place; strongly marking that spirit of liberality for which the town has long been distinguished. It is divided into two unequal parts by the River Stour; and the parish is divided in the same manner. The latter spreads over a surface of thirty-one square miles, and extends to the very brink of the Severn close to Bewdley.

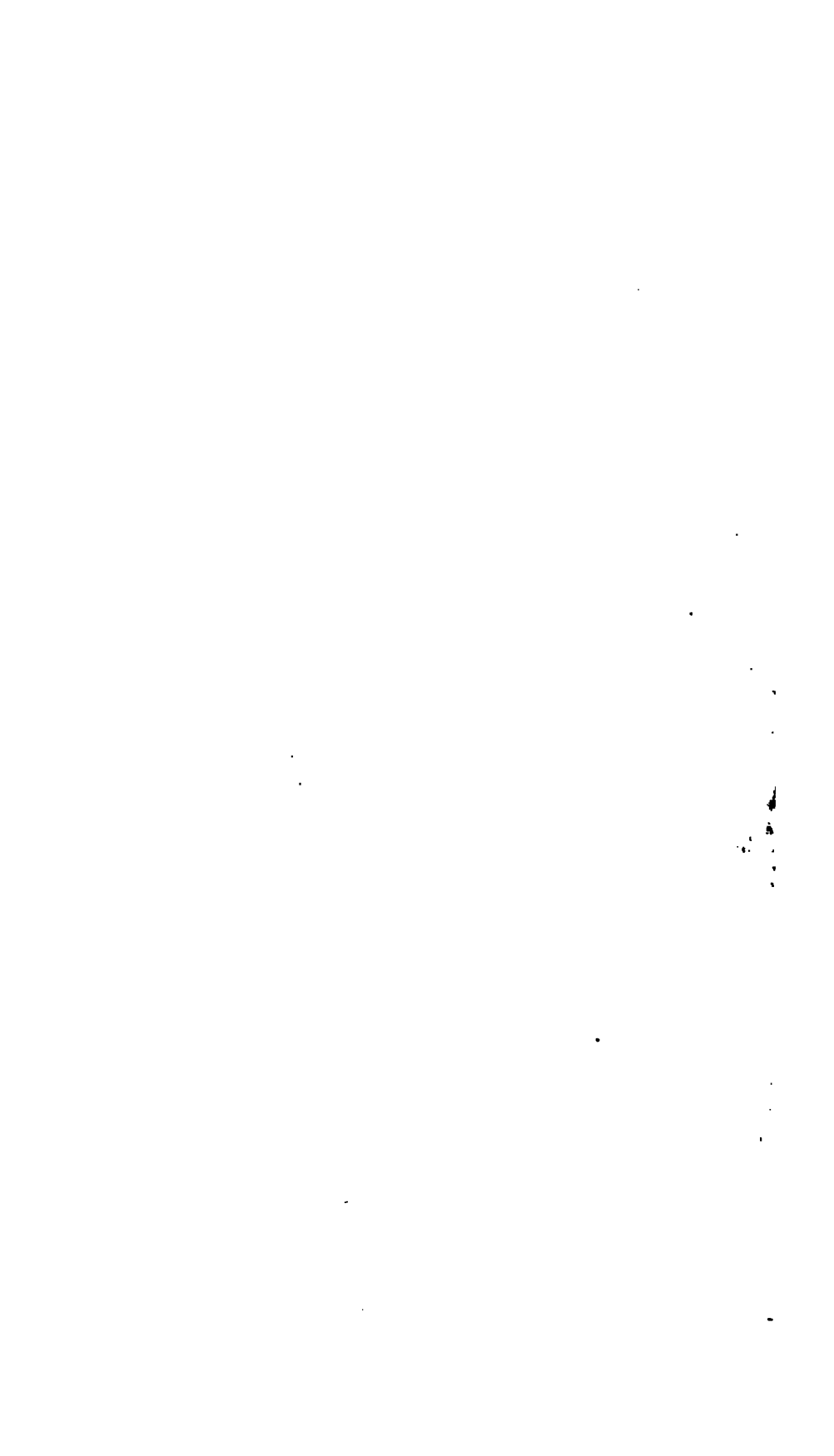
This place* was anciently written Chiderminster; *Kid*, or *Chid*, in the ancient British, signifying the *brow of a hill*, *dwr*, the water running past it, and *minster*, a church or monastery; all

* Nash's Survey.

all applicable to its situation. At the time of the Conquest, it was crown land, and remained so until the reign of Henry II. after which it passed through the Bassets, Beauchamps, Nevilles, Cokesseys, Burnells, &c. and was also the property of the Blounts, and of Waller the poet; but about the early part of the last century the whole of it came to the Foleys by purchase. In the time of Richard II.* it gave title of baron to John de Beauchamp, of Holt, who was the first baron created by patent. Leland, in his Itinerary, says, "from Bridgenorth to Kidderminster, mostly enclosed ground, somewhat hilly and daly; leavinge Severne on the right hand, I rode a twelve miles. Some wilde grounde by the way, and in some places good corne and grasse; and towards each ripe of Severn, after I passed the middle way, great plenty of wood, whereof much comith down to Severn to serve the parts about Gloucester. Entringe into the town of Kidderminster, I passed over by a Fanburge," (doubtless he means a *fauxbourg*, or suburb,) "and soe over a bridge of two or three arches upon Stower river. The head of this river is about the pooles of the late priory of Hales Owen, a six miles off. The fayre and chiefe part of Kidderminster is on the left ripe" (bank) "of Stower, standing on an hilly piece of ground. There is a pretty crosse, environed with six pillars about, and arches of stone, with the seventh pillar in the middle to bear up the fornix. It is the market-place. The church is very fayre. This town standeth most by clothinge. In tymes past this towne longid to the Bisets, antient gentlemen. After it came to the three heirs generall of Biset, whereof one being a Lazer, builded an hospitall at Maiden Bradley in Wiltshire, to a priory of Chanons. She gave her part here *in pios usus*; and the personage of Kidderminster was improprieate to Maiden Bradley. The two other partes came to the Lord Abergavenny, and in that family it yet remaineth."

But Kidderminster is much enlarged and improved since his day. The entrance into the town from Worcester is very striking from the hill after passing Hartlebury; and on entering it either
from

* Madox's *Baronia Anglica*, p. 142.





Engraved by Smith from a drawing by J. B. Smith

REID'S MILL, WEST OF THE TOWN OF
WATERLOO, ILLINOIS.

For the Publisher of the "Chicago and North
Western" Railroad.

from Bewdley, or Stourbridge, the visitor is impressed with its similitude to Nottingham, in having houses in many places cut out of the solid rock, for it is only the central part which lies in the bottom.

The church is a handsome Gothic structure, with very rich tracery in the windows, and stands in a very commanding situation on the brow of a knoll, at the end of a street which leads from the market-place, and overlooking the canal, of which there is a very fine view from a walk in the church-yard. The tower is uncommonly fine; and the whole of its outside is in excellent order. In the tower is a good ring of eight bells. The inside of the church is well preserved: here are new pews, a very commodious new gallery, a handsome gilt organ, and, what cannot be said of any other church in Worcestershire, lately *beautified*, every repair and every alteration has been done with due attention to Gothic effect. The *monuments* are highly deserving of attention, though we were sorry to see that, in the repairs of the chancel, the legs of a Crusader had been broken off, and other damage done by careless workmen. There are still many ancient grave-stones near the altar with the brasses remaining; and in the side walls of the chancel are several altar tombs. On the south wall, under an highly ornamented arch, is a monument of Edward Blount, Esq. he is in armour, resting on his arm, and contemplating his two wives, who lie on their backs beside him. This has been well engraved in Nash's Survey: on the tomb is the iron scullcap of his helmet, both large and ponderous. On the north side is another tomb of this family, on which a Blount lies in armour, with his wife on his left hand, in the habit of a widow, and holding a book in her joined hands; their children, one of which is in swaddling clothes, are on the back of the arch. On the same side, under a very ancient arch in the wall, lies a knight in armour, of the family of Cooksey, but one of those which have suffered from negligence; and in the middle of the chancel is a lady of the same family inlaid in a marble slab, between her two husbands. Besides these, there are several others, all worthy

anxious to establish it, or a temptation to idleness, and to imposition towards their masters and the public.

In the centre of the market-place is the *Town-Hall*, a gloomy structure, with the council-room upon the principal story, whilst the lower part is occupied as a market-house, and partly let to small shopkeepers and others. It were well if arrangements were made to remove the town prison from its present situation, which is partly under ground in this building, and which seems not much improved since Mr. Howard's visit to it some years ago, when he describes it as consisting of two rooms called dungeons, about ten feet by eight, down six steps, under the market house, without either court, water, or sewer; the cryer being the keeper, with a shilling a month for attendance, and a shilling a month for straw. The *market*, which is always well attended, is held on Thursday; and there are two *Fairs*, on Holy Thursday, and three weeks after, being the 4th of September, both for cattle, horses, cheese, linen, and woollen cloths.

The *Manufactures* of Kidderminster are now upon a very extensive scale; formerly it was famous for linsey woolseys; then for frizes; afterwards for tammies and flowered stuffs; but the carpet trade was not introduced until 1735; and in 1749 the Wilton carpets, with a cut pile, were begun. The stuff trade has had great fluctuations, principally owing to the preference long given to cottons; but the carpet trade is much advanced, to the great improvement of the general opulence and of the population. It is also an observation of consequence, that the carpet trade has increased in a much greater proportion than the stuff manufacture has diminished, a fact ascertained at a single glance, when we contemplate the almost annual increase of extensive workshops and warehouses, the ranges of new streets for the workmen, and the number of small, yet elegant villas, in the vicinity. About forty years ago there were 1700 silk and worsted looms, each employing one weaver; 250 carpet looms, employing a man and boy; and about 5000 people occupied in the preparation of materials for them. Latterly, indeed, the silk
and

WORCESTERSHIRE.

w d looms are reduced to 700; but the carpet looms to 1000; and of course the number employed in spinning, cannot be diminished. There are many reasons why Kidderminster has excelled in the carpet manufacture; and there is one which will always tend to preserve its superiority; these carpets exceed all others in the brilliancy and durability of their colours, owing, as it is affirmed, to the peculiar properties of the water of the river Stour, for scouring and for striking, arising from their strong impregnation with fuller's earth and iron. A late writer has very justly observed, that the flourishing state of Kidderminster, as a trading place, is principally owing to the industry, frugality, and simplicity of the manners, of its inhabitants; but whilst he panegyryzes these virtues, he seems to forget that it must depend also upon something which rather resembles their *opposite*; for if frugality and simplicity of manners were to prevail universally, few high wrought carpets would be bought, on account of the *first* virtue; while the second would tend equally to check those changes of fashion that induce the rich to dismiss their half worn carpets and purchase new ones. By this observation, we mean not to stand up as the advocates for *extravagant* luxury; but without *luxury* in a certain proportion, either here or elsewhere, the hand of industry would often be unemployed, and invention and genius would be unnerved. Much of that praiseworthy simplicity and regularity of manners now so honourable to Kidderminster, is, however, not of any great antiquity; for Baxter, the pious pastor of Kidderminster about 120 years ago, tells us, that he found his parishioners "very ignorant, irreligious, and dissolute." It is needless here to expatiate on the variety and elegance of the patterns, or on the process of manufacture, as no description would give an adequate idea of the complicated, yet simple, machinery of the latter; the first is seen every day; the latter must be seen to be fully understood.

By the returns of 1801, the *Population* of Kidderminster amounted to 6,810; and the number of dwelling houses was 1,390. It is no doubt considerably increased; but we have not been able

to procure any copy of the late Census. The amusements of the opulent part of this population are upon the same scale as in other towns. Here are many pleasing walks along the banks of Stour, or of the Canal; and the hills in the vicinity afford some agreeably diversified prospects. The principal walk is to *Round-hill*, about half a mile from the town, where there is a chalybeate spring, to which the promenade leads through some very pleasant meadows on the banks of the river. The iron soil, indeed, affords many chalybeates; and there is one at *Sandburn* that, in the fluctuations of fashion, may rival any of those of modern resort. Nor are literary pleasures neglected, for here are three reading societies; and a very comfortable coffee-room together with a billiard-room at the *Lion Inn*, to which strangers are liberally admitted, and notice given to them that they are so; here also is an assembly-room, with all the other accompaniments that tend to a social intercourse between the sexes.

The *Canal* which passes through Kidderminster, is the Staffordshire, in its progress to Stourport; affording to it a more inland communication.

The *municipal government* of this town is administered by a recorder, a bailiff, and the justices; and the Corporation consists of twelve aldermen and twenty-five common-council men, who have the power of making their own bye-laws, by a charter of Charles I. and the limits of the corporation are totally exempt from the power of the county magistrates. In ancient times, this place returned members to Parliament; but perhaps it is fortunate for it that it does so no longer, as the squabbles attendant upon that privilege are too often subversive not only of industry, but of morals. Here is a singular custom in the election of a bailiff; when the inhabitants assemble in the principal streets to throw cabbage stalks at each other. The town-house bell gives signal for the *municipal affray*, which, from its duration and mode of procedure, is called the "lawless hour." When it is over, the bailiff elect and corporation, in their robes, preceded by drums and trumpets, visit the old and new bailiff, constables, &c. attended by the mob. In the mean time, the most respectable

families in the neighbourhood are invited to meet and fling apples at them on their entrance.*

Near the town, on the banks of the canal, are the remains of an ancient castle, of considerable antiquity, which seems to have been the residence of some eminent family, and is supposed to have been the seat of two knights of the name of Cooksey, whose monuments are in the church. It is called "Caldwell;" and the manor is supposed to have derived that name from *Callida Vallis*, or the Cold Valley, in some measure descriptive of its situation. Nothing now remains but an antique tower of reddish stone, which is incorporated into a modern house, the residence of a manufacturer; but even that portion is worthy of examination by those fond of architectural antiquity. Of other antiquities in the parish, we may refer the curious tourist to *Wassal-hill*, where, about half a mile from the banks of Severn, he will find the remains of a small station or camp, of uncertain origin. It lies between two others, and about four or five miles distant from each; the one on Kinver edge, in Staffordshire, the other on Witchburyshill: and Dr. Nash supposes that these were probably the posts of Henry IV. when he blocked up Owen Glendwr after the affair at Worcester.

The advantages which agriculture always derives from commerce and manufactures, are well exemplified in this parish, the soil of which is generally dry and light, though there is some rich meadow land by the side of Stour, as well as some bog. Proceeding towards Severn, however, the situation is high, and the soil a cold clay, so that the crops arrive at maturity much later than in many parts of the neighbourhood. Yet is all this land become highly valuable; and, in particular, 300 acres of barren, sandy rabbit warren, not worth more than five shillings per acre about the beginning of the last century, were so fertilized by leading some small streams through the land, at an expense of 2500*l.* and since that, by the manure which a populous neighbourhood must always afford, that they now yield upwards of two waggon loads of hay per acre; and this at an expense, which, though

* Gents. Magazine, 1790, p. 1191.

though not very large, would never have been incurred, except in the neighbourhood of a populous manufacturing town. We cannot dismiss this part of the subject without noticing some observations of Dr. Nash respecting the parish in general. He tells us that the inhabitants of the *Foreign* of Kidderminster, so called to distinguish them from those of the borough or town, are vigorous and healthy, and arrive at a good old age, like other country folks; but in the town, the complexion and size of the people seems to be hurt by their trade, which is sedentary, and forces them to confinement: the weavers, he adds, are generally of a sallow complexion, and stomachic and pulmonary complaints, as well as putrid fevers, frequent: we are happy to add, however, that the increased cleanliness of the place, and the liberal attention of the rich to the necessities of the poor, have rendered much of those observations out of date.

In all towns where the employments are sedentary, we always find that sectaries are numerous; that is the case here, as well as elsewhere: but it must be added, that there is also here much liberality, the people of all persuasions cordially uniting their purses, and their exertions in promoting the general and useful education of the poor, without regard to forms or creeds. It must not be omitted, that there is here a very considerable society of Presbyterian dissenters, the descendants of Baxter's pupils.

With all their modern liberality, however, it must be confessed, that their ancestors were as superstitious, and as much impressed with the belief of *witchcraft*, as their neighbours; for in 1660, a poor old woman, her two daughters, and a man, were all accused of that crime, when they were put to the usual ordeal of ducking. The story may be found in Nash, who also tells us, that it is not many years since a poor woman, who happened to be very ugly, was almost drowned in another part of this county, on a supposition of witchcraft; and had not Mr. Lygon, a gentleman of singular humanity and influence, interfered in her behalf, she would certainly have paid the forfeit of her life, upon the old supposition that a witch could not sink.

The *biography* of this town is not very copious. *Richard de*

Kedermyster, who lived early in the sixteenth century, was, at fifteen years of age, received into the monastery of Benedictines at Winchcombe, in Gloucestershire; and at nineteen sent to Gloucester College, at Oxford, to obtain theological, and other learning. At twenty-two years of age he was made pastor of the monastery of Winchcombe, through the favour of his patron, John Twynning, the lord abbot. In 1500 he became D. D. and went to Rome; and after his return, being in great favour at the court of Henry VIII. he preached a sermon at St. Paul's Cross, during the sitting of Parliament, in maintenance of the exception of the clergy from temporal judges; and he even wrote a book to prove that all clerks, whether of the greater or lower orders, were sacred, and excepted from all temporal punishments by the secular judge, even in temporal causes. He also wrote against Luther, a history of the abbots of Winchcombe, &c.

Richard Baxter must also be noticed here, though not born at Kidderminster. He long resided here as vicar; and his amazing industry as a divine, together with his writings as a polemical and practical theologian, are so well known, as not to require particular elucidation. That he was an extraordinary man, in many instances, there can be no doubt, no more than that he was also highly disinterested; for to Cromwell he openly expressed his attachment to monarchy; and from Charles II. he refused the bishopric of Hereford. Notwithstanding all this moderation, however, he was something of the church militant; for we find, during the siege of Worcester, in 1646, that some intercourse having taken place, at the time of a truce, between the garrison and the besiegers, several officers on both sides met, when those two famous divines, Dr. Warmesley, and Mr. Baxter, who was then chaplain to one of the besieging regiments, took this opportunity of discoursing upon points of divinity. The first point which Baxter undertook to defend, was, that there was no difference between the church, and any other common place: they disputed on this and others, for several hours; but, contrary to what commonly happens among polemic divines, this controversy ended in a friendly manner.

In modern times, we must not omit *Mr. Parkes*, the ingenious author of the *Chemical Catechism*.

In WOLVERLEY PARISH, near Kidderminster, is *Sion-hill*, a pleasing seat, belonging some years since to John Hurtle, Esq. but we are not certain of its present possessor. Here also is LEA CASTLE, the seat of J. Knight, Esq. a gentleman who has been of considerable service to agriculture, by his spirited experimental mode of husbandry; and we cannot pass over unnoticed, a fact not only curious in itself, but also highly honourable to him, as recorded in the late Agricultural Survey of the county. Mr. Pitt remarks that respecting *horses*, Mr. Knight was at that time rather singularly circumstanced; for when the situation of public affairs rendered it adviseable for the volunteer cavalry to be raised, he resolved to come forward with a troop raised in his own neighbourhood, and principally at his own expense: to assist in which plan, his own heavy cart horses were sold off, and cavalry horses purchased in their stead. This enabled him to mount ten of his own servants, or dependants, upon as many of his own horses, for military service: these horses did all his extensive farming business, and occasionally served for saddle horses, or to draw his carriage; and were not only constantly in exercise, but always in good working condition.

JOHN BASKERVILLE, a most useful and estimable character, was born in this parish. He was of an ancient family, as old as the Conquest, and Robert de Baskerville of Erdesley, in Herefordshire, married a daughter of Rhees ap Tudor, Prince of Wales, in 1090. The subject of our present biography, who became afterwards one of the first printers in the world, being equal at least to Elzevir or Foulis, was born at Wolverley, in January, 1706, and was heir to an estate of about sixty pounds a year, the whole income of which, with an exemplary filial piety and generosity, he allowed to his parents during their lives, which continued till an advanced age, as the *Biographia Britannica* informs us; an estate which must have come to him by some collateral bequest, however, as any *inherited* estate must have been

the property of one or other of his parents. That work, already mentioned, says, that he was brought up to no particular trade or profession; but acquired early in life a love for fine writing and cutting in stone, in which arts he attained to great proficiency. When he was about twenty years old, he commenced writing-master at Birmingham; at which place, in a little time, his active genius, attentive to the improvements which were then making there, and formed for the invention of such improvements, led him to the *Japan* business. This he carried on a long time with distinguished excellence and success. But, in 1750, his fondness for literature induced him to apply himself to letter-founding, in which art he spent much time and money before he could produce one letter to please himself. From this he proceeded to *Printing*; and the first work he undertook was a beautiful quarto edition of *Virgil*, which now sells for three guineas. Soon after this he obtained leave from the University of Cambridge to print a Bible in royal folio, and two editions of the *Common Prayer*, in three sizes; these were followed by a long series both of the ancient and modern classics, all in that perfect style to which he had brought the art of printing: indeed, all modern book collectors allow, that nothing can surpass his editions, in type, paper, or style of execution.

He was the intimate friend of *Dodley* and *Shenstone*; and *Derrick*, who visited him in 1760, says of his mode of living, that his house was good, his apartments elegant, his staircase particularly curious, and the room in which he dined, and called his smoking room, very handsome. B. adds he is a great cherisher of genius, which, whenever he finds it, he loses no opportunity of cultivating. A little before his death, he set up a letter-foundry, for sale; as he did not meet with that encouragement from the booksellers, which, as a printer, he merited. After his death, which happened in 1775, many efforts were made to dispose of his elegant types;* but no purchasers could be found, and the universities rejected the offer. This valuable property, therefore, lay a dead

* Worcester Local Guide.

dead weight upon the hands of his executors, until a literary society in Paris, some years afterwards, bought them for 3700*l*. Nay, even his remaining copies could not find a purchaser, until an enterprising, but young adventurer on the ocean of literature, ventured to pay a very handsome sum for them; but so judiciously was this laid out, that it formed the corner-stone of his present independence, whilst his grateful remembrance of that amiable man's memory, has induced him to give the name of *Baskerville Hall* to an elegant little villa, which he is now erecting in the vicinity of Worcester*. Some time before his death, Mr. Baskerville built that handsome house at Birmingham, afterwards the property of Mr. Ryland, and one of the two remaining memorials of the riots in 1791. He was buried at his own express desire within the grounds, and the grave is merely covered with flat stones, without any inscription; yet near him lies a favourite dog, with the epitaph "Alas poor Trim!" Mr. Butcher, in his tour from Sidmouth to Chester, says, that some time ago, a report had gone abroad that this grave was robbed for the sake of the leaden coffin; an actual examination, however, proved, that this was unfounded.

STOURPORT

lies about four miles south of Kidderminster, on the banks of Severn. It was totally unknown in Leland's time, who says, "Stour river, about four miles beneath Kidderminster, goeth into Severne ripa sinistra at Rockston. This place, as the water turneth it, is three miles beneath Beaudley." Indeed, until within these forty years, there was no appearance of a town here; the soil was merely a barren heath, and there were no habitations except those of a few cottagers dependent upon the neighbouring small village of MITTON, which took its rise from its convenience for millers, for Leland observes, "from Beaudly to Mitton village, about a four miles by woody ground, and some course enclosures,

Q 4

here

* Our Worcester readers will here easily recognize their respectable fellow citizen, Mr. Smart.

here doth Stour river break into 2 or 3 armaletts, and serveth milles."

It is to the Trent and Severn, or Staffordshire and Worcester-shire canal then, that Stourport owes its existence; and we have been told, that this junction of the two rivers might have taken place at Bewdley, had not the inhabitants, or some of the leading men there, opposed it. This canal is one of the earliest works of Brindley, was completed about the year 1770, and cost 105,000*l.* an expense which has long since been amply repaid in annual profit, independent of other advantages. It enters the county at Wolverley, and accompanies the Stour in its course, but on a higher level, for a distance of nine miles, with nine locks, and a fall of ninety feet, constructed throughout for boats of a particular description, flat bottomed, seventy feet long, and seven broad, carrying from twenty to twenty-four tons; the depth of water being four feet six inches, and about thirty feet wide on the surface. The basin was begun about 1768, and finished in 1771, and it has now become the general depot of communication between the centre and western parts of the kingdom. Such was the origin of the new town of *Stourport*, which now contains upwards of 250 houses, and perhaps 3000 inhabitants, forming a complete *maritime* town in the very heart of the kingdom, which, when seen from any of the surrounding heights with its wharfs, warehouses, masts, &c. &c. seems, as indeed it is, a new creation. Its houses are mostly on a good scale, neat and commodious; its streets comfortable, full of shops, and thronged with people; whilst an air even of elegance pervades it, and shews what England is capable of, and *where* lie our resources: that is to say, *in the active labour of our population**.

The

* It has been the fashion to say that our resources must be soon expended; but that is both physically and morally impossible, whilst our population exists, and is employed. The annual labour of the county of Kent has been calculated at 350,000*l.* therefore if we average the labour of every county at only



The bridge at Stourport over the Severn, is an object not only of utility, but of beauty, consisting of a single iron arch over the river, of 150 feet span, and about fifty feet in perpendicular height above the surface of the water. It had formerly a bridge of stone; but that, after standing only a few years, was swept away by a great flood, accompanied with immense quantities of ice, brought down, after a heavy snow, and severe frost, in consequence of a sudden thaw. The parties concerned then determined, with great propriety and public spirit, to erect one of iron, with an arch so large that no obstruction could arise under any probable circumstances. The avenues to this main arch consist on both sides of a long range of smaller ones of brick, extending, on the whole, between six and seven hundred feet, and reaching beyond the bounds of the flood water-way. The tolls have lately been farmed at 500*l.* per annum.

The great importance of such a spot as this, is clearly shewn by the simple fact, that the garden ground in its neighbourhood, though naturally a poor soil, is let for half a crown per perch of eight yards square, or about *nine guineas per acre*.

The *Market* is on Wednesday; and this is always considered as a *Fair* for hops, from September to Christmas. Without aiming at a *pun*, we shall close this article with mentioning, that, such is the early association of industry and elegance, a subscription card and *dancing* assembly has already been established here, in the winter months also.

Milton common, and others in its immediate neighbourhood, have nothing particular to interest, except perhaps in one single article for the Botanist; that is the *Trifolium Arvense*, or Hare's foot

only 250,000*l* it will give an annual total of ten millions and a half; which, allowing every generation to be in a working state for twenty-five years, will give a sum of upwards of 250 millions to be elicited from the labour of one generation only. We do not say that all this is an addition to the actual capital; but it must surely be allowed to be a *disposable capital* for the time, as it pays taxes, and supports circulation.

foot tread, which grows positively here, on sand otherwise barren. Mr. PEE, in the Survey, says that hares will eat it: and, as a favourite where nothing else will, he recommends its culture, if other cattle will feed upon it. The experiment is at least worth trial. About two miles from Stearport is

HERTLEBURY CASTLE,

for many centuries past, the residence of the Bishops of Worcester. In ancient times it was defended by a moat and other fortifications; and was literally a castle, whilst the clergy were considered as as a kind of footing with the military barons. Bernard, King of Mercia, gave it to this Diocese, and Canisius is said to have begun the castle, which was embattled by Girard in the reign of Henry III. after which a strong gate-house was added by Bishop Carpenter. It continued capable of defence, and is thus described by Leland in the reign of Henry VIII. "Passing two miles beyond Mitten, by enclosed ground, woody, and sandy, but somewhat barren of corn. I left the castle of Hertlebury about half a mile on the left hand. There is a park and deer, a warren for coneyes, and fyre poodes: but the soyle about the castle is barren." In the unhappy reign of Charles I. it was taken by Colonel Morgan, in 1645, and sold for little more than 5000*l.* but, on the restoration of peace and property, the various prelates began and continued its erection, until it became, as at the present day, a very elegant and agreeable residence. Much of this it owes to Bishop Hurd's munificence* and refined taste; and the most valuable ornament it could receive is a noble and elegant library, which he has furnished with a select and well chosen collection of books for the use of the future prelates of this see; and among this collection are the principal and most valuable works from the libraries of Mr. Pope and Bishop Warburton.

The principal part of the buildings, however, as they now stand re-edified, were the work of Bishop Hough, after the Revolution, whose whole time and exertions during the forty-four years in which

* Green's Survey.



Engraved by Richard, from a drawing by J. Smith.

HARTLEBURY CASTLE,
Worcestershire.
The Seat of The Rt Honble Viscountess de Rosset

London: Published by J. Smith, Strand, 1794. (From the Original in the Library of the Society of Antiquaries, London.)



which he sat in this episcopal chair, were directed to the welfare of his diocese, and of its inhabitants. Its situation is extremely pleasing; placed on a rising hill, or knoll, it has to the south a most extensive prospect over the vale of Severn; and it occupies a very extended space on the level of the park. Being built of brick, comfort is its principal feature, though many of its windows being finished with plain Gothic arches, and its roof lined with battlements, with some turrets and belfries, it has altogether an air of grandeur when seen through the breaks in the surrounding woods, which are not, however, very extensive. The road to Kidderminster from Worcester goes close by the park-paling; and the "pooles," or fish-ponds, spoken of by Leland, still remain.

The village of *Hartlebury* and its Gothic church lie in the bottom. The village is pleasant, though not very large; and the church is ancient, but without any thing requiring particular description.

WAYSLEY GREEN, the seat of T. Baker, Esq. stands between Hartlebury and Ombersley, close to the high road on the eastern side. It is situated so as to command a very extensive prospect to the south-east, and forms a large and lofty *cube*, in a plain and neat, but handsome, style of architecture, and of modern construction; elegantly furnished, but not so as to preclude comfort; and the extent and taste of its plantations embellish its grounds, and promise to do even more so, when they shall arrive at their full growth. Upon the whole, there is not perhaps a more comfortable residence in the county.

Crossing the Severn, from Kidderminster, we enter

DODDINGTREE HUNDRED,

which occupies the western side of the county, and has two divisions.

The *upper* contains the parishes of Acton Beauchamp, Alfrick, Areley Regis and Dunley, Bockleton, Clifton upon Teme, Cotheridge, Eastham, Edwin Loch, Hanley Child, Hanley William, and Orlton, Hillhampton, Kyre Great and Little, Lulsley, Martley,

WORCESTERSHIRE.

hard, Standford, Suckley, Sutton, Sturmay, Ten-

division has Abberley, Alton in Rock, Astley, ley, Dodenham, Lindon Upper and Lower, Mam- sey Adam and Oliver, Rock, and Sned. place of our Itinerary is

BEWDLEY,

of Severn, and which, from its pleasant situation, al- tre of a populous manufacturing district, has long urishing town.

reign of Edward I. a manor belonging to the mps; but in the reign of Edward IV. it came by pur- to the Sheldons, and from that monarch it received its first rter of incorporation *. After this it became of considerable nce, from Tickenhill in its neighbourhood being honoured and residence, at times, of Prince Arthur, eldest son of Henry

state in the succeeding reign, we must refer to Le- says " from Kidderminster to Beaudley two miles by re wowne, but somewhat barrenne, as the veyne is there, about on every side of Beaudley for a little compasse. I entered in Beaudley (in Schropshire as some say) by a goodley fayre bridge over Severne of arches of stone, being even then in new reparation. This bridge is only on Severne betwixt Beaudley and Worcester bridge. To this bridge resort many long flatt vessels to carry up and downe all manner of merchan- dize to Beaudley and above Beaudley. The east part of the bridge at Beaudley, and the left ripe of Severn is in Worcester- shire; but many say and hould that the west end of the bridge, and the right ripe of Severne within the town of Beaudley be in Schropshire, and Wyre Forest, in Schropshire going to the parke of Tetenhall."

The

* In the Harl. Coll. No. 463, p. 33, are Letters Patent of Edward IV. by which he grants that the city of Bewdley shall be a free borough and cor- poration for ever, dated the 30th of October, in the 12th of his reign.

“ The towne selfe of Beaudley is sett on the syde of a hill; soe comely, a man cannot wish to see a towne better. It riseth from Severne banke by east, upon the hill by west; soe that a man standing on the hill *trans pontem* by east, may discerne almost every house in the towne, and at the risinge of the sunne from the east the whole towne glittereth (being all of new building,) as it were of gould. By the distance of the parish church (at Ribbesford) I gather that Beaudley is a very new towne, and that of ould time there was but some poore hamlett, and that upon the building of a bridge there upon Severne, and resort of people unto it, and commodity of the pleasant site, men began to inhabit there; and because that the plott of it seemed fayre to the lookers, it hath a French name Beaudley quasi *Bellus Louis*.”

Little mention is made of Bewdley from this period, until the civil wars, when it was visited by Charles I. Clarendon* tells us that “ having left Worcester well provided, his Majesty removed with his little army to Bewdley, that he might keep the river Severn between him and the enemy;” and it is a curious fact, that the citizens of Bewdley, in order to celebrate his Majesty’s visit, were actually at the expense of *two shillings and sixpence!* of which, two shillings were paid for some repairs to the corporation-pew in the chapel, and sixpence for some other odd jobs; for nothing else* appears upon the corporation-books, with a sight of which we have been favoured. Its history, under a more modern period, requires no elucidation till we come to speak of its municipal and parliamentary arrangements.

It has been asserted, that the hill on which it stands, was originally called *Tun hill*, or Goats hill, since converted into *Ticken hill*, of which we shall have occasion to speak presently: this, however, must have been *before* the existence of any thing like a town. In its original state, as most of the old towns are in this part of the kingdom, its buildings were of timber, but the principal street is now as well built and paved as any other

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* Vol. II. 380.

provincial town. Great part of it, as Leland describes, is built upon the side of a hill, which makes it airy and clean; but the upper part of the town, where there is an ancient ruinous gateway, now turned into dwellings, and framed of timber-work, perhaps three hundred years old, is poor and straggling, and when viewed from Tickenhill, or any of the neighbouring heights, appears sunk in a dirty hollow. The plan of the town itself resembles the letter Y, the foot extending to the river, and of the two horns, one leads to Ribbesford, the other into the forest. The river navigation is busy, and commodious, with extensive wharfs on each side, which seem pretty well occupied; and from these the *Bridge* appears to great advantage, being a handsome modern structure, of elegant architecture, guarded by ballustrades, and possessing a lightness of appearance, even superior to that of Worcester. It still claims a toll even from foot passengers.

Bewdley being in the parish of *Ribbesford*, has only a *Chapel of Ease* for the accommodation of its inhabitants; in Leland's time it was built of wood, and had some painted glass; but the present one was built by donations in 1748; of which, a large portion was contributed by William Bowles, Esq. then member for the borough. The then rector also, the Rev. Thomas Knight, rebuilt the tower at his own expense from the old materials, and thus liberally assisted with several others, in producing what may well be reckoned an ornament to the town, standing exactly in the gorge of the Y where the roads part off. It is of modern architecture, and plainly neat, though the tower is not inelegantly ornamented. The inside is plain, supported by lofty pillars; the windows are of a good height and size; and the whole of it is creditable to the town, and to those more particularly entrusted with its management: indeed, it wants nothing but an organ to render it equal to any modern church in the county. A great proportion, however, of the population are not of the established church; of course, there are very neat and comfortable places of assembly for the Presbyterians, Anabaptists, and Quakers, who each worship their Creator quietly in their own way.

Notwith-



BEWDLEY BRIDGE,
Worcestershire.

Engraved by J. Smith del. from a drawing by J. Smith del.

Notwithstanding these differences in the outward forms of religion, there is, and long has been, great liberality of sentiment in this place, which is evident from the joint endeavours of all to promote the cause of education. As early as the reign of Elizabeth a *Free-school* was established here, and supported by voluntary contributions, some of which have been considerable; and there is one perhaps on a more useful scale, and of more recent date, under the patronage and support of the corporation and inhabitants in general. This not only affords a plain education to the objects of its benevolence, but gives them clothing, and enforces an attendance upon divine service. There are also several alms-houses for the poor and aged.

The *Town Hall* is a very commodious modern building of stone, standing on three arches in front, with handsome iron gates leading into the market-place, shambles, &c. consisting of a long range of sheds, neat and convenient. The stone front is ornamented with six square pilasters, with a pediment, and the Lyttelton arms over it, which, with the double row of arcades in the inside for the stalls, give it a superior air of neatness. The apartments over it are light and airy, and well adapted for their various purposes.

The early importance of the trade of Bewdley may be inferred from the circumstance of its having had two market-days and four annual fairs prior to the reign of James I.; since which time, however, it has only a market on Saturday; and three *Fairs*, of whose particular dates we have seen no less than three different accounts, but have reason to believe, on accurate enquiry, that they take place on the 23d of April, for horned cattle, horses, cheese, linen, and woollen cloth; on the 10th of December for hogs only; and on the 11th of the same month, for the same articles as the April fair.

The *Trade* of the town depends in a great measure upon its navigation, and the inhabitants boast that their trows and their crews are the best upon the river. This trade, however, might have been much greater than it now is, if it be true that the inhabitants

ticular, whose confined means, or peculiar engagements, may prevent them from applying to more distant means.

In the summer of 1795, the worthy doctor was induced by a very strong hepatic sulphureous smell, in passing a bye-road in this neighbourhood, to examine a water in the corner of an adjoining field; and finding it strongly impregnated with the sulphureous gas, he thought it deserving of further investigation. The water he designates *locally*, as issuing from a field belonging to Mr. Goolden, of Bridgenorth, now occupied by his tenant Mr. Whitehouse, and called Sawyer's field, near a bye-road adjoining a wood, lying west of the river Severn, in a part of the parish of Upper Areley about three miles from Bewdley. The water in the well has a greenish blue colour. It has a strong sulphureous taste and smell, noticed by passengers on the road; and it lets fall in the channel, in which it runs off from the well, a white soft precipitation. Coal-mines are worked at no great distance from it, and their *Pyrites* may account for the mineral impregnation. Dr. Johnstone, in his descriptive letter to the Gentleman's Magazine (1796, p. 283,) adds, that this water certainly deserves attention, from its perfect resemblance in taste, and sensible qualities, to Harrowgate and Moffat waters; and not being inferior to them in strength, it may be presumed to possess the same medical virtues. This opinion, he says, has been confirmed by a chemical analysis and examination of the water sent by Mr. Jones, a surveyor in Bewdley, to Dr. John Johnstone, a physician in Birmingham, for that purpose, from which it appears similar to that of Harrowgate; and, therefore, promises to be a commodious remedy to such, at least, as cannot afford the expense of a long journey, though requiring the medical aid of a water of these qualities.

The *biography* of Bewdley is not very extensive. *John Tombes* was born here in 1612, and was of Magdalen Hall, Oxford, where he shewed himself a most excellent disputant, a person of incomparable parts, and well versed in the Greek and Latin lan-

were obliged to surrender in the time of Charles II. and to accept another from James II. But when Queen Anne came to the throne, the last was declared illegal, and that of James I. confirmed; which produced no less than *two returns*, on the two charters; nor was the affair settled until after a long and expensive law-suit, which confirmed the original one of the first James.

The bailiff here is a Justice of Peace and Quorum; nor does he lose his legal dignity until twelve months after the close of his corporate one.

The immediate neighbourhood of Bewdley is extremely pleasant. Crossing the river to its eastern bank, at the very end of the bridge, we enter a small hamlet with a chapel, called the "Foreign of Kidderminster," being in that parish; and close to this is *Spring Grove*, the seat of the late S. Skey, Esq. to whom this part of the country is indebted for the introduction of a very useful breed of mules, both for the saddle and for agricultural purposes. Some of them of a good size, to fifteen hands or more, and some nearly of a milk white colour, the most beautiful of which were reserved for drawing his carriage, and for which a very high price had been offered. They were bred from grey or white mares, and a white spotted foreign ass; and all the farm-work was here done by these animals on a light sandy soil. The house itself is a large white extensive building, situated in a park, whose wall is skirted by the road to Kidderminster, and the views both of it, and from it, are delightful.

Keeping from the bridge end to the right, on Severn's eastern bank, we soon catch a fine view of *Winterdyne*, the seat of Mr. Moseley, and a most elegant villa. It was built by the late Sir Edward Winnington, Bart. after he had resigned to his son the house at Stanford Court, which is the ancient residence of that family. It stands on a hill about half a mile from Bewdley, commanding a charming view of the Severn, with all its romantic scenery. It has been well said, that the healthiness of its situation, the beauty of its prospects, and its general neat-

ground, adjoining the gardens of RIBBESFORD HALL. Dugdale*, who calls it *Ribetford*, says it was a *town* whose villeins were bound by accustomed usage to make fishing-weirs, or stakes, and all other contrivances for hunting, for the monastery, and also to do other works as they were commanded; but the Dānes, and then Thurstan, having taken away the monastery by violence, its government was lost to the cathedral. "But he," says the monkish legend, "not only lost it, and all his other lands, but was soon driven into exile; so that he who takes from God unjustly, soon loses his own justly."

The church is dedicated to St. Leonard; it is low, and of very ancient architecture, partly Saxon, partly Gothic. It has two side aisles; the Gothic arches on one side being of stone, but on the other of wood. The windows are of each order of architecture already mentioned; but the greatest curiosity about it is a Saxon bas-relief over the door-way, which is said to refer to a legend of one of the ancient possessors shooting a salmon. This is, however, so uncouthly carved, and has been so bedaubed with paint and plaster, that it is difficult to trace even the outline of the figures. It *may* have been intended for a *salmon*; but if so, either the salmons or the statuaries of ancient times must have been curious creatures. If it resembles any thing in air, earth, or water, it might more reasonably be supposed as intended for a beaver, which animal was formerly plentiful in this neighbourhood, or perhaps a *seal*, to which it bears some resemblance, and which may have come up the river, and been considered as a great curiosity in those days. The good people of Bewdley, however, are so convinced of its being a *salmon*, that we will not run the risk of being thought heretics in this point of faith, though it is the first salmon we have ever seen with *two fore feet*!

Where there is so much ground unoccupied, as there is round this church, it seems more particularly indecorous to observe an angle in the building rudely walled up, and filled with skulls and

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other

* Monast. Angl. Vol. I, 129.

suffered, when yet doubtless they did no less press and afflict me than her, so I hope my soul shall pass to a better life than this, without being sensible of the anguish and pains which my body shall feel in death. For as I believe that then I shall be transmitted to a more happy estate by God's great grace, I am confident I shall no more know how I came out of this world, than how I came into it."

He has generally been supposed to be a native of Montgomeryshire; but from this MSS. it appears, that although his father was Richard Herbert of Montgomery Castle, Esq. his mother being Magdalen, daughter of Sir Richard Newport, yet he was born at Eyton, in Shropshire, in 1583; but so afflicted with an hereditary epilepsy, that many thought he would have been dumb. Under a domestic tutor in the house of his grandmother, he learnt to read, and also some part of his grammar, and at nine years of age was sent to Mr. Edward Thelwall of Plas-ward, in Denbighshire, in order to learn Welch, as that might be useful to him amongst his friends and tenantry. He was afterwards entered a gentleman commoner of University College, Oxford; but, after his father's death, an overture was made to him of marriage with Mary, daughter and coheir of Sir William Herbert of St. Julian's, in Monmouthshire, which was shortly after consummated, he being then about fifteen, and his wife five and twenty years of age. However, he still continued his studies at Oxford, whither his wife and mother accompanied him, and, as he observes, much to his advantage with respect to personal sobriety and temperance, &c. On the accession of James I. he was made a Knight of the Bath; but his inclination leading him to travelling, and that in a chivalrous romantic way, he went to France, where, after many adventures, romantic in the extreme, he was at the siege of *Juliers*, where Sir Edward Cecil, with 4000 English, had joined Prince Maurice in besieging that place; and at the taking of which, he was the first who passed over the ditch to the walls.

"At this place he was challenged by Monsieur Balagny, then a

way inferior. He acknowledges himself indeed to have been choleric and hasty; yet protests, that without occasion given, he never quarrelled with any person; and though he passed much of his time in the armies and courts of the greatest princes in Christendom, yet he never drew his sword for his own sake singly, but often for his friends.

"The encounter above-mentioned, happened in 1611; after which we may conceive Sir Edward for three years in a deep application to his bookes, of which he had a choice collection of his own gathering in his castle of Montgomery." After this he went again to the continent, and visiting Italy, arrived at Rome, a little before the Christmas holidays, and no sooner was he alighted from his horse, but he went to the English college, and then demanding the president or governor, accosted him in this bold manner: "I need not tell you my country, when you hear my language. I came not here to study controversies, but to see the antiquities of the place. If, without scandal to the religion in which I was born and bred up, I may take this liberty, I should be glad to spend some convenient time here: if not, my horse is saddled, and myself willing to go out of the town." The governor answered that "he had never heard any body, before him, profess himself of any other religion in Rome, than what was there used; that for his part he did not disapprove this freedom in speaking, as collecting thereby that he was a person of honour; for the rest, that he could give him no warrant or license of security for his abiding there; but that experience did teach, that those who gave no affront to the Roman Catholic religion, did receive none. Whereupon he demanded his name, and being told, Sir Edward Herbert, the governor replied that he had heard him often spoken of both for his learning and valour, and immediately invited him to dinner; which courteous invitation Sir Edward kindly resented, but did not accept, that he might not give umbrage or jealousy in England, that he had made any undue acquaintance or correspondence with that society.

"Upon his going, out of curiosity, to see the Pope in consistory,

wise strenuously opposed by our ambassador, with many arguments and obtestations; but nothing could divert Mons. Luignes and the king from their resolution of persecuting the Hugonots, being much incited to it by the jesuitical party in France. An instance of this bigotted zeal appeared in Father Segnerand, the king's confessor, who in a sermon before him upon the forgiveness of our enemies, after having said some good things upon the topic, came at last to distinguish concerning forgiveness, and said that though indeed we were enjoined to forgive our own enemies, yet we were not so the enemies of God; such as were all heretics, and particularly those of the reformed religion in France; whom, therefore, his Majesty, as the most Christian king, ought to extirpate by all possible ways and means, wheresoever they could be found. "The persecution having been carried on furiously for some time, king James sent instructions to his ambassadors to labour the mediating of a peace; in which mediation, if he could not speedily prevail, he was to notify to the French king, that the King of Great Britain would interpose to prevent the utter ruin of the distressed. With this message the ambassador gladly posted to the French king just as he was going to besiege St. Jean d' Angely; but his Majesty would give him no answer of himself, but referred him to Mons. de Luignes for one. Luignes received the ambassador with great indifference and coldness, suspecting his errand to be what it was before he heard it; and upon hearing it, especially the latter part of it, touching his Britannic Majesty's interposing in the affair, he replied with an air of haughtiness and disdain, 'We are not afraid of you.' To which the ambassador retorted, 'Sir If you had said that you had not *loved* us, I should have believed you sooner.' At which reply Luignes was so provoked, that he exclaimed 'by G—, Sir, if you were not an ambassador, I would treat you in a different manner.' Sir Edward replied again, 'Sir I have the good fortune to be a gentleman, as well as the honour of being an ambassador; and here is that which shall make you a further answer,' laying his hand at the same time upon his sword. Luignes to this made no reply; whereupon the ambassador rose from his chair and departed:

parted: but Luignes making an offer to accompany him to the door, Sir Edward told him there was no occasion to use ceremony after so rude an entertainment, and so they parted. However, Luignes so resented this reply of the ambassador, that shortly after he sent his own brother ambassador extraordinary to England with a vast train, and in a most sumptuous manner, chiefly to procure Sir Edward to be recalled, which by a misrepresentation of the matter, as if Sir Edward had begun the offence, was effected, and he was recalled. Sir Edward then earnestly requested the king, that he might send a trumpet to Luignes to offer him the combat, but was not permitted to do so; but on the death of Luignes, the Earl of Carlisle (then ambassador) attesting that the affront was offered by him in the manner related above, Sir Edward was ordered to return to his former charge in France, with this additional honour, that his Majesty was now so well assured of his abilities and fidelity, that he refused to give him any particular instructions, but ordered him to proceed upon all emergent occasions according to his own prudence and sagacity."

"During his second residence in France, Comt Gondomar passed through Paris in his way to England; who coming to see our ambassador about ten in the morning, after some compliments passed, told him that he was to go for England the next day, and desired his coach to accompany him out of town. But Sir Edward freely told him that he should not have his coach; for he knew well enough that he did not demand it because he wanted coaches, (there being then in town the Pope's nuncio, the Emperor's ambassador, the Duke of Bavaria's agent, and others who had coaches enough to furnish him,) but because he wanted to raise a jealousy between him the English ambassador, and the French. Gondomar, looking merrily upon him at this unexpected answer, said, 'however, I will dine with you to day.' Sir Edward replied, that by his good favour he should not dine with him neither at that time, not only for the reason above-mentioned, but also because he would not entertain the ambassador of so great a prince at his ordinary dinner: but if at any time he would give him
fair

fair warning, so that he might provide him a feast extraordinary, and in some measure worthy of so great a personage, he should then be welcome. Gondomar, though much surprized and disappointed, yet was greatly pleased with so frank and gentle a repulse, as he afterwards declared to the Duke of Lenox and the Earl of Pembroke in England, adding that our ambassador was a man fit for employment, and that he thought an Englishman had not known how to avoid a trick handsomely, if put upon him under the show of civility."

Sir Edward, after his return, was raised to the peerage by King James, as Lord Herbert in Ireland, and by King Charles I. as Herbert of Cherbury in Shropshire, "after which he appeared little upon the stage of public affairs, applying himself to a studious and retired life, even amidst the confusion of the civil war." His work *on Truth* has been translated into many languages and been admired by some of the most learned, particularly by Casaubon, Tillenius, Vossius, &c. He died in 1678, and was buried at St. Giles in the Fields, London.

This place is now the property of J. Prattington, Esq. We have heard it verbally asserted, that Ribbesford is a lordship in *Bewdley parish*, but distinct from it with respect to municipal government, the justices, or other officers of the parish, having no power within its limits; yet Ribbesford church is the parish church, and this is the sole burying-ground for the whole district.

A pleasant road through the grounds leads to the high-road along the banks of the river, from whence, along the top of the cliffs, there is a very extensive prospect, including Blackstone rocks, Mr. Polyots' house, a comfortable, indeed handsome, but not very modern building, and the town of Stourport, with all its wharfs, boats, bridge, &c. forming an extraordinary scene of activity. In a short time we come to ARELEY ON THE HILL, whose church, standing on an eminence, is not only an object worthy notice in itself, but possesses as fine a prospect as any in the county, extending even to Worcester and Malvern. The church is Gothic, and has been tastefully repaired in that style. It is extremely

extremely neat both inside and out, and in the interior are many very handsome monumental tablets; and some very large escutcheons; the body of it is also neatly fitted up with pews, but in every part the Gothic style is preserved as much as possible. In the north wall there is a curious Saxon door-way, now built up: the principal entrance, as usual on the south-side, is a handsome Gothic piece of architecture. In the church-yard is the very curious tomb of Sir Henry Coningsby: the grave-stone lies under the shade of four elms planted on the steep brow of the hill, and is about eight feet long; it has no inscription, but close on the west side of it, there are three ranges of four stones each, forming a kind of wall, the lowest sunk in the ground, and the whole supported by the before-mentioned elm-trees. This wall is about eighteen or twenty feet in length, each stone being more than four feet long, and about one and a half square; and on this is cut, in large letters,

"LITHOLOGEMA QUARE
REPONITUR SIR HARRY."

The legend attached to this is, that the person whose memory is here preserved, was Sir Henry Coningsby of Herefordshire, in which county he had a house moated. He had an only child; and playing with it one day at a window, accidentally let it fall into the water, where it was drowned. This misfortune afflicted him so much, that he afterwards avoided all intercourse with the world, and ended his days at a farm-house in this parish. Close to the limits of the church-yard is the old parsonage-house of Mr. Hume; and a little below it, is *Areley Hall*, once the seat of the *Mutchlows*, and then a very curious ancient place, but now replaced by a handsome modern mansion, the property of the family of Zachary.

From this spot, the tourist, who is rambling for pleasure, will turn to the right, and ascend Stagbury hill, which will lead him along the top of a high range, from whence he looks down with a fine bird's eye view of the river and its scenery, whilst in the distance he sees Bredon, Cotswold, Malvern, Woodbury-hill, Abberley,

ley Rock, Wyre forest, Glent, Kidderminster, and round to Hartlebury common, and Stourport; altogether forming as picturesque a range of scenery, as any part of that neighbourhood can furnish.

Passing through some extensive young woods, we come to the glebe lands of Ribbesford, in which is a very curious botanical phenomenon, of a yew tree growing in the body of an oak. The yew tree is not less than two feet in diameter, completely cased with the trunk of the Pollard oak, and each of them growing in the ground, which is proved by a small part of the oak being cut away; so that the oak is nothing more than a hollow cylinder, but filled up with the body of the yew tree to a height of eighteen or twenty feet, after which the two trees intertwine their branches in the most friendly and picturesque manner possible! From this, the road into Bewdley leads us by Horsehill to what is called "*Augustine's Oak*." With respect to the true history of this tree, there is a variety of opinions; or rather with respect to its situation; for it is not contended for, that the old tree still exists. Sir Henry Spelman, an intelligent and indefatigable antiquary, seems to think that there are some remains of the name in *Aufrie*, a village in Suckley parish in this county, which according to his interpretation of Huntingdon, the monkish writer, who relates the fact, lay on the confines of the Wiccians and West Saxons.—"*Ac id est robur Augustini in confinio Hucciorum et occidentalium Saxonum*," as Bede says, I. 2. C. 2. whom Huntingdon copied; and both of whom were afterwards copied by Bishop Gibson. Of the fact itself as it took place, Dr. Nash tells us, that St Augustine the Apostle of England, and the British Bishops, are said to have held a conference in the year 603, under an *oak*, which stood on the limits of the Wiccian and West Saxon kingdoms. The subjects of this conference were the keeping of Easter, and administering the sacraments of baptism, &c. according to the church of Rome. This dispute, like most other religious ones, tended only to inflame animosities, and to send away both parties dissatisfied; and Camden simply observes on the subject, that after
some

for Prince Arthur. It was repayred for the Ladye Marye. Since I heard that Richard, Earl of Marche and Duke of Yorke, builded there. It was Mortimer's, Earl of Marche's land."

Though this was the frequent residence of Prince Arthur (indeed it is said to have been the scene of his marriage festivities with Catharine of Arragon, afterwards Queen to Henry VIII.) it was not the scene of his death, which took place at Ludlow: here, however, he was brought in his way to Worcester. "On St. Mark's day the procession went from Ludlow to Beudley. It was the foulest cold windye and raineye daye, and the worst waye that I have seene; yea, and in some places they were faine to take oxen to drawe the charre, so ill was the waye. Assoon as the corpse was in the chapple of Beaudley, and set in the quiere there, with such lightes as there was roome for, the dirige begann. That donne, the lordes and others went to their dinners, *for it was a fasting day*. On the morn the earl of Surrey offred at the masse of requiem, a noble, in manner as before. At which masse season there was a general dole of pence, of two-pence to every poore man and woman."* With respect to its subsequent history, Dr. Nash tells us that it was vested in the crown, and leased out to the Winnington family, before which period, however, it had been used as a mansion for the council of the marches of Wales. It was much damaged in the civil wars, but afterwards repaired by Mr. Ingram, whose family still possess it under a lease from the Winningtons, with whom they are connected by marriage. Mr. Habyngdon in his MSS. says that Tukenhill park was famous for large spreading oaks, somewhat resembling the neighbouring forest of Wyre. Of these oaks many remain; and though the park is not very extensive, it possesses a variety of hill and dale, and of romantic dells, that render it susceptible of the highest and most picturesque improvement. The view from the north front is delightful, bursting at once upon a wooded dell below, with swelling hills all tufted with wood in the fore-ground, and soften-

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* Leland, Coll. Vol. V. p. 387.

ing into the distance in Wyre forest; altogether producing a scene of wildness far superior to the trimmest lawn, or gayest parterre.

The

FOREST OF WYRE,

next claims our attention; but this has long been in a great measure denuded; even as early as the days of Drayton, who sings,

" When soone the goodlie Wyre, that wonted was so hie,
Her statelie top to reare, ashamed to behold
Her straight and goodlie woods unto the fornace sold;
And looking on herself, by her decay doth see,
The miserie wherein her sister forests bee."

Leland merely says of it, that " summe part is sett in Wicestershire, but the most part in Shropshire, and stretchythe up Fronthallt upon Severn, on to Brugenorthe. Bewdley is set in the marches of this forest." It seems, however, that more of it is now considered as being in this county than at that period. At present it is a great nursery for oak-poles and underwood, which are cut at the proper seasons, reserving timber trees at judicious distances. The oak shoots, which are often from old roots, are innumerable; and very great numbers are cut down annually, and after being stripped of their bark, are sold for making rails, hurdles, laths, &c. under the name of black-poles.*

Descending the Severn, after passing Areley, we come to ASTLEY parish, in which was an Alien Priory of Benedictines, founded by Ralph de Todeni in 1160; and at the dissolution, granted to Sir Ralph Sadleir, well known to English historians for his collection of state papers † At Redstone ferry on the Severn, where this parish joins to Areley, there is a high cliff so near to the river, as to be often washed by the floods. Here, as at Blackstone, was an hermitage, in early times, cut out of the rock, consisting of a chapel with an altar, and several other rooms; the whole

* Pitt's Agricultural Survey, 187.

† Tanner's Not. Mon.

whole decorated with paintings, and inscriptions promising indulgences to such as should perform their devotions there. In the days of papal superstition, it was held in great veneration, and in Habyngdou's time preserved the memorials of many penitents of high rank, having the coat armour, not only of the Beauchamps, Mortimers, and other noble families, but even of Royalty itself. It was afterwards let as a residence to a poor tenant, together with two acres of land on the cliff above it, and since that has become a temple dedicated to Bacchus, under the license of a bench of justices! The church of this parish will attract the notice of the antiquarian tourist, being of the Saxon order: it has some monuments, and some small remains of painted glass, but nothing else worthy of specific notice.

Glasshampton is a good old seat in this parish. Here, too, was born the famous old historian *Laximon*; a priest, who wrote the annals of this kingdom from Brute to Cadwallader. Some, however, only consider him as an early *book-maker*, and assert that his work was nothing more than a translation from Geoffry of Monmouth into Norman English.

Proceeding from Bewdley towards *Tenbury*, we pass *Shakenhurst*, where Mr. Wigley, the barrister, has a handsome seat; this, by the country people, is corrupted into "*Sheckmister*"; and from hence, on the left, we see the parish of *Rock*, which, according to Nash, was anciently called "*Aca*," from its number of oaks, but now *Rock*, from its situation; or, probably, a corruption of *Ac*. Its church stands on a very commanding eminence, and is a pleasing object from the surrounding roads; but it is rather hard to get at, though it will be a sufficient gratification, for the labour of steep hills and miry vales, to examine its Saxon construction which is evident from its semicircular arches. It was in existence at the Conquest; and, though on the summit of a hill, must be approached by a descent of several steps; but whether this was its original state, or that the soil, from various causes may have increased, we are totally unable to explain. It is in wretched order at present, and has nothing but some old monu-

ments of the Coningsbyes. There is, however, a botanical curiosity in the middle of a thick wood in the eastern part of the parish; this is a tree, which, by the country people, is called the "Quicken pear," but is a species of the *Sorbus*, or Service tree. It is, by tradition, upwards of two centuries and a half in age; and was even described as a curiosity as far back as 1678, in the Philosophical Transactions of that period.

MAMBLE parish lies a little further to the westward. In Habyngdon's time, there were many armorial escutcheons in the windows of the church; but these are almost entirely gone. In the Blounts' chapel, however, there are still some ancient monuments,* and one, in particular, worth notice, of the skeleton of a man stretched on a mat, and lying on a tomb; this is the tomb of Thomas Blount, Esq. who died in the reign of Elizabeth, and it is rich in armorial bearings, and genealogical inscriptions.

Sodington, the ancient, but now desolated, seat of the family of Blount, is in this parish, and seems to have been an ancient place of defence, according to the custom of early times; but was not only damaged during a siege in the civil wars, but burnt by the Parliamentary army, because the Blounts refused to make them arms at their forge. Notwithstanding its damages, and very retired situation, it might still have been made an agreeable residence to those who are not so fond of modern elegance as to be disgusted with the gloomy walls of antiquity; as its site was on a pleasing eminence. It was formerly moated round, and had four drawbridges. We cannot close our topography of this place without noticing a most curious discovery which took place in 1807, while the workmen were employed in taking down the whole of the ancient mansion. In digging beneath the oldest part of the house, at the depth of about three feet, they struck upon an ancient *focus* formed of thin bricks, which had each of them a semicircular termination, and had evidently been framed in a similar mould. In digging at a small distance from the *focus*,
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* This family has long been raised to the baronetage; but their seat is at Mawley, in this neighbourhood, in Shropshire.

five feet below the level of it, a pavement, laid with large thin bricks, such as the Romans are known to have used, and as are commonly to be met with at Verulam, and other Roman cities, was discovered.

In levelling the ground near the house of Soddington, the labourers also dug up a vast number of curious tubes, which seemed to have formed an ancient aqueduct, the existence of which was previously unknown to any of the inhabitants, even by tradition. These tubes were formed of the finest clay, and exceedingly well baked; being of a grey colour on the outside, and when broken, of a dark colour in the interior. They appeared to be exactly of the same composition with the common Roman urns. Each tube was about two feet long, and about four inches in the total diameter, though the aperture for conveying the water was not more than one inch and three quarters. At one end were hollow tenons, and mortices at the other, all exactly fitted, as to be air-tight without the intervention of mortar.

They were laid in the direction of a spring, which flows at the distance of a mile and a half from Soddington, at the summit of an eminence still higher than the site of the mansion, and they were traced a considerable part of the way to it.

But the most curious discovery, as related by an eye witness, occurred in a field within a quarter of a mile of the old house; where, in levelling a hillock, on which an oak quite decayed with age, besides other trees, stood, at the depth of about two feet from the sod, the workmen found a complete brick kiln, consisting by computation of ten thousand bricks, the greater part of which were well burnt, but the rest only half ready for use. It was noticed that the kiln was not made as kilns usually are at present; but unfortunately there was no person there qualified to give a correct description of it. The bricks also were both larger and thinner than those of the present day.

Mr. Milner,* who gives the account, very justly thinks this a discovery deserving of antiquarian notice, in order to determine

* Gents. Mag. Vol. 77. p. 1009.

of warfare, the Saxons would affix no value to this collection of bricks, even if they had seen it; being too much employed and too little civilized for upwards of a century to think of new buildings, during which lapse of time a sufficient quantity of soil may have accumulated over them to give shelter and nourishment to the acorn, the parent of this tree. Mr. Milner concludes his account by observing that the focus and floors on the site of the house, not being in situations where cellars were dug, had evidently escaped the notice of the workmen when the mansion was first built.

This parish is further remarkable for a curious exchange made in 1344, in the reign of Edward III. between John Curdwell, vicar of *Momele*, and Thomas Aleyn, rector of St. Clement's, in Worcester. When the usual inquisition was held, previous to the exchange, it appeared, that Curdwell's reasons for the offer arose from the violent hatreds and quarrels that raged about Mamble; and that, from fear of death, or some capital injury which he might receive from his enemies, he could not live there. The cause of the exchange on the part of Aleyn was, that the corrupt air of the city did not agree with his constitution; and because of his neighbours at *Wick*, who made him such frequent visits, and put him to such expense, in eating and drinking, that he could not afford to live there!

Here also are extensive coal works, with which the *Leominster Canal* is connected; but we shall have occasion to speak of it more fully under the head of

TENBURY,

which lies on the western border of the county, touching upon Hereford and Shropshire. The road from Worcester to Ludlow goes past the town, but not through it; and the Swan inn, which is at the end of the bridge, is in Shropshire, which county extends also over half the bridge, and to the mid channel of the river Teme. The manorial history of this place records a frequent change of possessors. At, or soon after, the Conquest, it was held by Robert Fitz Richard, who was lord of Richard's castle,

Crusader, who followed his father under age."* It is much to be regretted that the repairs of the church did not take place with some regard to the original style of architecture, as it would then have been a very picturesque and interesting edifice; the expense, however, would have been very great, for on the 17th of November, 1770, the great flood, which then took place, threw down both the side and middle aisles, and swept away all the windows, destroyed the organ (which has since been replaced), and injured so many of the monuments, as totally to render the church a perfect wreck.

The *bridge* over the Teme, which stands on the north side of the town, is a very handsome one, of six arches, and built of stone. The *market-place* is ancient, and is called the *corn-market*; but there is a new *butter-cross* building, which will add much to the convenience of the place. The *market* is held on Tuesday, and there are three *fairs* for cattle, horses, and sheep, on the 26th of April, 18th of July, and 26th of September. The *trade* principally consists in hops and cyder, of which great quantities are grown in the neighbourhood; and there are also some opulent tanners and glovers. The *Leominster Canal* runs at a very short distance from this town. Its original intention was, to enter Worcestershire at this place, and to go from hence across the country to the Severn, either at Bewdley, or opposite Stourport, which would have opened a direct communication with the whole line of country connected with the Severn, and its various lines of navigation. Many obstacles, however, have arisen to hinder its completion, or, at least, were not previously enquired into. At present it has reached as far as the coal pits at *Mamble*, and the money is all expended. An immense sum will, indeed, be necessary either to form the lockage required, or to cut through a hill of two miles and a half in thickness, at the rate of one guinea per inch, at which it has been calculated. The soil too through which it runs is very unfit for such a purpose, being nothing more than a loose marl, even where it is carried along

* Sepul. Mon. Vol. I. p. 6.

South of Kyre is **BOCKLETON**, a small village on the borders of Hereford. The parish church is a plain building of stone, consisting of one aisle, irregularly pewed. In the old chancel there is a mouldering tomb, ornamented on the sides with several armorial bearings, having also on the top a male and female effigy, as large as life. The wall to which the tomb adjoins is ornamented above with five small male figures in relievo, and in the attitude of prayer; three of which are represented in armour; the other two are smaller in dimensions. Opposite to these are four female figures in the same attitude, one of which is much smaller than the rest. An imperfect inscription shews that this is the tomb of Richard Barneby, Esq. and his lady, Maria, co-heiress of Richard Abington, Esq. (quere of the Habyngdon family) about 1574.

EASTHAM is a small village, containing the seat of the reverend Christopher Whitehurst, and is a most charming situation, from the great extent of wooded scenery around it. The bridge which leads off from the post road, over a very rapid part of the Teme, has a most pleasing effect, contrasted with the dark foliage of the deep embowering woods which hang over it. The house is plain and neat, and the grounds partake of the nature of the surrounding scenery.

The church here is Gothic; but is evidently raised upon the remains of a Saxon one, for arches of that order, with ornamental mouldings of the same, may be seen at the union of the body of the edifice with the chancel; over the principal entrance also, which is a Saxon arch, are mouldings of raised work; and over all a row of intersecting Saxon arches in the wall, supported by short columns, highly ornamented.

Hanley on the Hill, a modern villa of Col. Newport, seated on a conspicuous eminence, and commanding very extensive prospects over the vale of Teme, and Wyre forest, is also in this parish.

LYNDRIDGE is the next parish to Eastham, on the road to Worcester. It appears to great advantage at a distance, and attracts

to agricultural improvements; and the latest Survey of the County mentions several particulars respecting his farming affairs, &c.*

STOCKTON church is close to the post road; it is evidently ancient, and altogether, with the village and some good houses close to it, forms a very interesting group. The hill seems to be cut into ancient entrenchments; but we could not procure any information respecting them, nor can we find it even mentioned by any writer whatsoever. Nash remarks, that notwithstanding the round arched doorway of the church, adorned in the same style as at *Eastham*, yet there is no notice of it in Domesday book. It seems, therefore, to have been built after the Conquest, to which its Saxon style forms no objection, for we know that the Gothic was not adopted until the reign of Stephen; or it may have been built on the ruins of a church originally Saxon, and not endowed at the time of that Survey. It contains several monuments of the family of Walsh, once very numerous in this district; and had also much painted glass, but that is gone.

STANFORD COURT, the elegant seat and park of Sir Thomas Winnington, Bart. lies about one mile to the southward of Stockton, and is seen to great advantage from its lying on the rise of a hill, and backed by its summit, covered with extensive woods and lawns, and a variety of picturesque rural scenery. The views, both in and from the park, are extensive and delightful; the house is not a very old one, but is very large and commodious; and a considerable addition, nearly equalling it in size, has lately been made to it, in a plain neat style, without any of the gaudiness of ornamental architecture, but possessing all the substantial plainness of English manners, though by no means devoid either of exterior or interior elegance. The surrounding groves of oak are luxuriant in the extreme; and the park contains two large pieces of water, which, in their present state, are ornamental, but are still susceptible of much improvement, particularly as this soil and climate are so congenial to the growth both of timber and underwood: a fact more accurately ascertained by the very rapid growth

* Pitt's Survey of Worcester, p. 21.

manic hills. Several of the apartments seem evidently calculated for domestic purposes; and some of them may have existed for religious ones. On the festival of St. John the Baptist, a solemn offering was always made here; after which, the parties assembled ascended a staircase cut in the rock, to a small chapel on the top of it, dedicated to that saint, where they concluded their devotions; and then proceeded to a well, whose waters were at that period considered as possessing peculiar sanctity, and as having the power of preventing or of curing different diseases. Some years ago, some persons, making researches in this place, discovered a curious dish, supposed to have been an offertory one: there is something on it, supposed also to have been an inscription, but, which being both illegible and unintelligible, has served to puzzle many knowing antiquaries. It remains still undeciphered, and is likely to continue so.

We next pass a good old seat called the *Elms*, but without any grounds, though it might be made a handsome spot; and soon after approach *ABBERLEY*, whose hills are seen from almost every part of the country.

Drayton says of this range:

“Not far from him againe, when Malverne doth perceave,
Two hills, which though their heads soe highe they doe not heave,
Yet duly doe observe great Malverne and afford
Him reverence; who againe, as fits a gracious Lord,
Upon his subjects looks and equal praise doth give,
That *Woodbury* so nigh and neighbourlie doth live
With *Abbertey* his friend.”

These hills have a considerable elevation; the country round is indeed a coldish clay or loam, but fertile in fruit trees, which grow to the very foot of the declivities; and the hills themselves are a lightish soil, on a bottom of loose stone brush. Fern and furze cover the summits, amongst which rabbits burrow: but there are some very fine sheepwalks; and the sides are well shaded with plantations. The hill on one side of the road is much dug out in
very

comfort; a specimen of which may be found in **ABBERLEY LODGE**, which is placed upon a very lofty eminence of this chain of hills, with a delightful prospect; and though bleak in the winter, yet possessing every thing to make it a pleasant summer residence. The house is plain, but large and commodious; and the taste of its present possessor, Colonel Bromley, has adorned it with some very fine productions of the Italian, and other masters. The admirers of *Pope* will be pleased, in visiting this spot, to recollect that it was the abode of a man whom *he praised*; and who must, therefore, have been a man of merit, as that poet has never been accused of giving indiscriminate *praise*, whatever may be the general opinion in *another* point of view.

“Such late was Walsh, the muse’s judge and friend,
Who justly knew to blame, and to commend;
To failings mild, but zealous for desert,
The clearest head, and the sincerest heart.”

The man to whom this admirable character is given, was William Walsh, Esq. of the family of Shelsey Walsh, who long sat in Parliament for the county; and was descended from Sir Richard Walsh, so active in the apprehension of some of the gunpowder-plot conspirators. From this family, Abberley came to the present possessor by female descent.

HUNDRED HOUSE INN, a large and commodious building, erected by the late Lord Foley, stands by the road side opposite to Abberley, and is not only extremely convenient as a baiting and posting stage between Worcester and Tenbury, but is also the general rendezvous for the public business of the Hundred of Doddingtree. In *Warfield*, near this, there have, at various times, been dug up some remains of ancient buildings; but we have not been able to procure any information respecting them, except the mere stories of the neighbourhood.

The *Whitley-hills** consist of a cold clay loam on limestone, but carrying a good turf of grass. Limestone is raised and burnt

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airy colonnade; but the south front is the principal one, possessing a most superb elevation in a very chaste style of architecture, and having within it the principal apartments. As most, if not the whole, of this part, has been rebuilt, the tourist must only expect modern elegance; but of this he will find almost a profusion, particularly in the article of gilding; at the same time he may perhaps complain of the lowness of the apartments, which, however, unavoidably proceeds from the ancient plan of the house, and could not well have been obviated, without pulling it down entirely in all its parts. In the unsettled state of the house, we cannot say any thing particular of its paintings; yet we must notice a remarkable one of John Lacy, the comedian, in the three different characters of Parson Supple, Sandy, and Monsieur Device; also another well executed painting of Flora, with nymphs and shepherds; and a Father Dominic: most of the others are sporting pieces, &c. The extreme vicinity of the *Church* to the dwelling-house has been noticed by many tourists, and as often copied by subsequent writers; particularly an observation of Mr. Sullivan, who, in his tour, says, that the burying-ground extends almost into the area before the house; and when he noticed this to the ancient housekeeper, she coolly said, that those who were offended with the sight of mortality might shut the windows. But the fact is that the church now actually forms part of the house, or at least communicates with it by means of a gallery leading from the billiard-room, and opening into the chancel. This gallery is fitted up as the pew of the family; and over its chimney-piece there is a monumental tablet, &c. which formerly stood against the north wall of the chancel, as a memorial of Thomas Foley, Esq. the benevolent founder of Swinford charity. The present church stands exactly on the site of the old one; but is closer to the present mansion-house than was formerly the case, in consequence of the extension of the latter: it was begun by the first peer of the family, and completed by his widow; but considerable alterations have since taken place. It is now perhaps, the most elegant parish church in the empire, out of the metro-

beauties of the most picturesque hills and woods, for which the serpentine course of that rapid river is remarkable. It stands on the western bank, and derives its name from its situation, being on a steep cliff overhanging the river. It was anciently the seat of the Ingram family as far back as the reign of Henry III.; and in that of Edward III. it was constituted a borough, with a weekly market, though now in disuse. Close by it is *Ham Castle*, now dilapidated, the property of the Winnington family. It was anciently a castellated mansion, but suffered considerable damage from fire in the early part of the seventeenth century; and soon after, in 1646, was almost totally destroyed by the parliament army. Part of its fortifications was a kind of bastion in the shape of an half moon; and in this, in the year 1649, a Mr. Jefferys discovered, in a vault, an iron chest containing a considerable quantity of coin, both in gold and silver, probably concealed there in days of intestine commotion.

MARTLEY, though out of the frequent line of communication by post roads, is yet a very pleasant, cheerful village, containing many houses, inhabited by genteel respectable families. It is situated in a very picturesque part of the county; and standing high, has very extensive prospects over Herefordshire into Wales. Its neighbourhood is highly cultivated, and fertile in fruit and hops; and the parish is so extensive, that the tithes, in favourable years, have amounted to upwards of one thousand pounds.

KNIGHTWICK is on the very verge of the county; and from its vicinity to Martley, and correspondent similarity of site, enjoys all its advantages. It stands on the post road from Bromyard in Herefordshire; a few miles lead us to Cotheridge, already described; and thence to the central object of our research, the city of Worcester.

Extending our tour into the south-western and southern districts of the county, we enter

PERSHORE HUNDRED,

containing *Two Divisions*, of which

The UPPER has the parishes of Abberton, Alderminster, and

Beoly ; on the eastern side of the county, Besford, Berlingham, Bricklehampton, Broadway, Broughton Hacket, Great and Little Comberton, Defford, Dormeston, Eckington, Flyford Flavel, Grafton Flyford, Martin Hussingtree, Naunton Beauchamp, Pen-sham, Peopleton, Pershore St. Andrews and Holy Cross, Pinvie, Piddle North, Pirton, Strensham, Upton Snodbury, Walcot *cum membris*, and Wick *juxta* Pershore.

The LOWER contains Birtsmorton, Braunsford, Bushley, Chaseley, Eldersfield, Hanley Castle, Leigh, Langdon, Madresfield, Malvern Great, Mathon, Castle Morton, Newlands, Powick, Queenhill, Severnstoke, Staunton, all on the western side of the Severn ; and Yardley in the north.

After passing Powick, as before described, we arrive at a wide extended flat, from whence the Malvern hills start suddenly, carrying their lofty summits to a considerable elevation above the horizon for several miles ; and, then dipping as rapidly as they rise, unite again with the level line of landscape. This chain forms from this point of view, and indeed from all others, a line of almost incomparable beauty and variety ; whilst their broad declivity is seen from hence overspread with the village of Great Malvern, and its adjoining villas, though the foot of the hills is hid from the eye by a luxuriant belt of surrounding woods. Well, indeed, may *Dyer* assert, that few other places boast of scenery,

“ ——— such as decks
The vale of Severn, Nature's garden wide,
By the blue steep of distant Malvern wall'd,
Solemnly vast.” ———

Even Drayton, with all his quaintness of style, seems to have had taste enough to admire the beauties of this range of mountains—

“ Which manly Malvern sees from furthest off the Sheers
On the Wigornean waste, where northward looking neere,
On Corswood casts his eye, and on his home-born chase
Then constantly beholds, with an unusual pace
Team with her tribute come unto the Cambrian queene.”

The

The extended flat, to which we have alluded, is NEWLAND GREEN, a wide common with some old, but picturesque, cottages on its borders. The *chapel* is particularly worthy of notice, in being framed with timber like many ancient dwelling-houses; and it might, indeed, be mistaken for a farm-house were it not for its small wooden spire. From hence a road turns off for *Maddesfield*, which is hid in woods, but some of whose rising grounds are seen peeping over the verdant foliage. We now rise the *Malvern hills*, the surrounding scenery gradually unfolding to our view; and, crossing the *Link*, arrive at the village of

GREAT MALVERN,

a place of considerable note for its Ecclesiastical History, long before that it became ranked amongst the resorts of fashionable society. Tanner tells us that it was a place of great antiquity; for here in the wild forest was an hermitage, or some kind of religious house for Seculars before the Conquest, endowed by the gift of Edward the Confessor, as is stated more than once in the second charter of Henry II. recorded in the *Monast. Anglic.* Vol. I. p. 366. About 1083, Aldewine, the chief of this place, who, in the *Annales Wigornenses*, is expressly called the founder, was persuaded by St. Wolstan, Bishop of Worcester, to turn Benedictine monk, upon which he immediately set about procuring benefactions for the building and maintaining a priory of that order; and Gislebert, Abbot of Westminster, having assigned several manors and estates to that purpose, this monastery was considered as a cell of, or at least subordinate to, Westminster. This is considered by Tanner, as completely contradicting the assertion that Urso d' Abbot was the founder of it before the Conquest; an opinion, however, recorded by Thomas in his *Antiquities* of this place. That Urso d' Abbot was not the founder, is also further confirmed by both charters granted by Henry I. in which, though the preceding benefactors are recorded, there is no mention made of any such foundation. We must observe also, that although the Abbot of Westminster always claimed the patronage and confirmation of the Prior, yet, in all other respects,

the ridge of the hills; many parts of which are yet in good preservation, and may be traced along the summit for several miles. The descendants of this earl held it for several generations, but it at length came to the crown; after which the before mentioned grant of Charles I. seems to have been annulled, as in 1690 it was granted to Richard Heath and Sir Cornelius Vermuyden, Knt. in one-third part, and the other two-thirds to the adjoining parishes. It was declared free from the forest laws, by an Act of Parliament, in the reign of Charles II.; the privileges have since been considered as belonging to the thirteen parishes adjoining it, and a late very extensive enclosure has taken place.

The village of Great Malvern is the residence of the greatest part of the visitors in a crowded season, though it is nearly two miles distance from the *Holy well*, now the most frequented; it stands on the eastern declivity, about eight or nine miles from Worcester, and not more than twenty-two from Cheltenham, from which it often receives a great influx of company. It contains fifty or sixty houses, most of which are extremely neat, and many of them have gardens, with small plantations of fruit-trees and shrubberies, giving a very rural aspect to the whole, which may indeed be seen entirely from almost any point of view. From the different parts of the village the aspect of the hills is bold and striking; their bold ascent, and the huge rocks that rise through the surface, have a very fine effect, especially when viewed in contrast with the surrounding country, where cultivation and the softer beauties of improvement form the principal features*.

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* In the description of a place of such celebrity as Malvern, we should have done injustice to our readers not to have availed ourselves of every account of it, now extant; without further reference, therefore, we shall once for all recapitulate our various sources, which are, a description of Malvern by the Rev. J. Barret, Skrine's Tour to Wales, the Tour to the Watering-places, Dr. Nash's Survey, Shaw's Tour to the West of England, Mineralogy of Malvern from Mr. Horner's very accurate Paper in the Transactions of the Geological Society, Vol. I. Dallaway on the Arts, Antiquarian Repertory, Stukeley's

champaign country of the richest cultivation possible, interspersed with innumerable mansions, lawns, woods, and the other golden plantations of the country; peopled with cheerful and thriving towns, and enlivened by the busy streams of the Severn and the Avon. These are the principal features of the eastern vale; to which we must add, in the distance, the hills of Whitley, Woodbury, and Abberley, Clee, and Clent, the Wrekin, the Lickey, the Broadway hills, Bredon, and Cotswold.

On the opposite side are various winding vallies mingled with hop-grounds, gardens, seats, and swelling hills of verdant wood, all sweetly softened by the mellow light of the autumnal season, which is the fashionable period for visiting those wells, and encircled by a majestic range of mountains as far as the Black mountains in Brecknockshire, the Skirving hills in Monmouthshire, the hills of Abergavenny, and Ledbury Mount. Indeed, the burst of prospect from these summits is indescribable, at least so as to do it justice; we shall, however, give the almost poetic sketch of Dr. Nash, as coming nearer to the glow of feeling experienced on this spot, than any other we have seen. "It is beyond the power of an *antiquary*," says he, "to describe the beautiful prospects from this hill. If a distant view delights, here you may see the counties of Monmouth, Hereford, Radnor, Brecknock, Salop, Worcester, Gloucester, Stafford, Warwick, &c. and the three cathedrals of Worcester, Gloucester, and Hereford, together with many market-towns. If you are pleased with a nearer view, the pear-trees of Worcestershire, when in blossom, furnish such a scene as the world besides cannot equal. On the western side the apple-trees in Herefordshire, with their purple hue, make an agreeable diversity; add to this the varied ground, the beautiful little hills, and rich woods, which improve the Herefordshire prospect. If, to the beauty of the situation, we add the salubrity and pureness of the air, we may venture to report, that, at least for the summer months, Malvern is as desirable a residence as any in England. But it is not as a landscape alone, that this prospect gives delight; for, as Mr. Shaw observes,

observes, if we contemplate these scenes with the eye of an historian, what a train of ideas will they afford ! " Instead of groves of shining fruits, we may fancy moving armies of glittering spears and helmets ; instead of yon silver gliding streams, we may imagine rivers of blood ; such were these plains when haughty Cromwell and his 30,000 men marched over them, and appeared on Redhill against Charles II. with only 1200, in August 1651. No more the din of war is heard ! Tewksbury, Upton, Powick, and thou fair city, *Worcester* ! Your lofty towns are no more seen to shake, your buildings fall in dreadful conflagration, nor streets pour down the sanguine flood. All now arise in conscious harmony to gild these scenes, now sunk in peace, and crown'd with plenty. Maintain long this lovely reign, ye sons of fame ; and ye who reap the fruits of industry, store in your plenteous and golden crops, and quaff your homely nectar in joyful tranquillity ! ! "

Having thus taken a hasty sketch of the general outline of these interesting hills, we shall now present our readers with a more detailed view from an elaborate and yet tasteful paper respecting them, which has lately appeared from the pen of Mr. Horner, in the first volume of the Transactions of the Geological Society, just published ; and which we shall give nearly in his own words, without the formality of marking each separate extract. He delineates the whole range as consisting of an uninterrupted chain of about nine miles in length, extending nearly in a straight line from north to south ; their greatest breadth from east to west not exceeding two miles. The several parts of the chain all present rounded summits ; and, from one extremity to the other, they are nearly covered with a luxuriant vegetation. When viewed at a little distance on the eastern side, we see that there is a gradual rise from south to north ; and that there are three hills, which form the principal features, as they stand considerably above the general outline. The highest of these is in the centre of the range, and is known by the name of the Herefordshire beacon ; the two other prominent hills are situated nearly close together

ther at the northern extremity; of these, that which is farthest south, is called the Worcestershire beacon, and is the highest of the two; the other is the North hill.

In the table lately published of the altitudes taken in the course of the Ordnance Survey of England, the height of the Malvern hills is stated (particularly the Herefordshire beacon) at 1444 feet. Nash states them to be 1313 above the level of the Severn at Hanley. But Mr. Horner, by means of a portable barometer, makes their height above the plain, (which is sixty feet above the Severn,) to be for the Worcestershire beacon, 1238 feet; North hill, 1151 feet; and the road before the door of the Crown Hotel in Great Malvern to be 273 feet above that plain, or 333 above the line of the Severn.

With respect to the *mineralogy* of those hills, Mr. H. is very precise; and as this is a practical part of the study in which our fair philosophic readers may follow him without fatigue or danger, we shall enter upon it more minutely, in order to prompt them to investigation, in their summer excursions. On the western side, then, the rocks are covered with a fine turf; but on the eastern, or Worcestershire side, there are several quarries worked in different places, and at different heights, besides which the mineralogist has other opportunities of observation from the chasm called the *Wytch* in the northern road across the hills; and also in the Ledbury road near Little Malvern, in the making of which the rock has in many places been cut down to the depth of twenty or thirty feet. Felspar, hornblende, quartz, and mica, forming different compound rocks, and varying as much in their size as in the proportion of their ingredients, constitute the greater part of the range; and there is also a large quantity of granite.

On the eastern side, between the Worcestershire beacon and the chasm called the *Wytch*, about a century ago, a shaft was sunk in the hope of finding metal, by one Williams of Bristol, who, as Nash records, began with a level about eighty yards, and then sunk a shaft 220 feet deep. Trusting to his eventual suc-

Nor must we omit to notice, from the observations of Mr. Barret, that the western declivity of the hill, partly in each county, contains a bed of limestone, which is the course of a vein that commences near *Pensax*, in the region of the Abberley hills, and terminates at Ledbury. This produces excellent lime, in the vicinity of Malvern at least, where considerable quantities are annually made in *Mathon* parish, and in its Herefordshire neighbour, *Colwall*. This stone, which is of a bluish cast, is interspersed with veins of a whitish colour, which, together, take an excellent polish. It is sometimes used for chimney-pieces; and, when properly finished, appears very little inferior to the Derbyshire marble. This bed of limestone, too, may afford much amusement to those who chuse to collect specimens in natural history, a study now become so fashionable; for it contains an almost infinite variety of marine productions, particularly the remains of shell-fish; such as cockles and muscles of various sizes; some of them partly, and others of them wholly, petrified, or filled with a perfect limestone. Mr. Barret asserts also that he has seen fragments of different kinds of fish in a state of petrification, but retaining their natural figure: but this, though true, is not quite correct; as it is now well ascertained that the substances are not petrified, but either encrusted with the stony concretion, or that concretion deposited in the cavities which they had occupied. Many zoophytes of the *screwstone* kind are also found here, and Mr. B. even found the fragment of an horn, evidently belonging to a marine animal. These, together with corals, cornua Ammonis, sponges, vertebræ of large fish, &c. leave no room to doubt that part, at least, of these hills was once under water; but whether left bare according to the *Neptunian*, or protruded above the surface, according to the *Vulcanian* theory, it is not for us to determine.

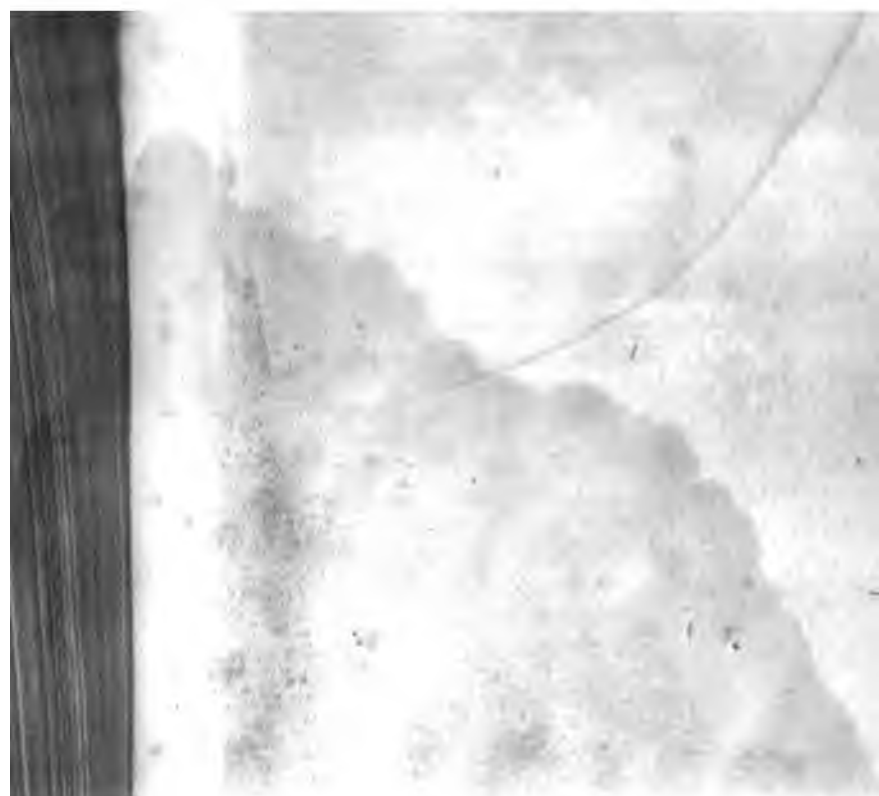
The more elevated parts of the Malvern hills, which are not enclosed nor cultivated, chiefly belong to proprietors of land in the adjoining parishes. The surface, in some places, is productive of gorse and fern; in others it is a sweet turf, affording an



GREAT MALVERN CHURCH,
Worcestershire

Engraved by J. Smith from a drawing by E. Poynter and others. Taken by Mr. L. Smith.

For the Proprietors of England and Wales. E. & J. P. 1847



connoisseur in architecture, after shewing his skill in the superintendence of the chapel at Westminster Abbey, and St. George's at Windsor, built also this church, nearly in its present form and state. In the windows, which then were richly adorned with painted glass, he placed the portraits of Henry VII. of his queen, Prince Arthur, and himself, all in surcoats of Armorial blazon;

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him out of Lancashire, where he then was with the countess, at the mansion of Sir Thomas Stanley, her third husband, and arriving at Brecknock castle, in Wales, where Morton was confined in the custody of the duke, the plan was submitted to him, and he was directed to return to Lancashire to impart the important secret to the countess. From this period he was extremely active in his endeavours to strengthen the Lady Margaret's interest at home, and it is said that it was entirely owing to his influence that Sir Giles D'Aubeny, Sir John Cheney, and several others of the most active partisans, were induced to take a part in the business.

It is unnecessary to recapitulate the events connected with Bosworth field, so fatal to the ambition and life of the usurping Richard; but it must not be omitted that the activity and address of Reginald were munificently rewarded by Henry himself. The honour of knighthood was conferred on him soon after Henry's accession, and he was summoned to the first privy council which sat upon that occasion. He was also appointed constable of Okeham castle, in Rutlandshire, and joint chief justice, along with Lord Fitzwalter, of the forests south of Trent. To these grants were added several manors; and an idea of his wealth and consequence may be formed from the fact, that in 1492, he was retained to serve in parts beyond the sea, with twelve men at arms, (including himself, having his costrel and page) twenty-four half lances, seventy-seven archers on horseback, and two hundred and thirty-one archers, and twenty-four bill-men on foot. After this, in 1494, he was elected High Steward of Oxford; and it is curious that an office now so much sought after, was then pressed upon the acceptor; for there are, a letter under the common seal notifying the election, and earnestly praying him to accept the office, with one to Dr. Mayow, intreating him to use his interest with Sir Reginald to accept it, copied into the register book of Letters in the Schools at Oxford, and also a letter of thanks for his accepting the office, and for a donation of forty marks towards building St. Mary's church.

The University seem to have placed great dependence upon Sir Reginald's integrity and attention to their interests, as there is a letter extant to him, expressing

but, as Mr. Dallaway observes, all very rudely executed, if we may judge from those of Prince Arthur and the builder, which alone

pressing their fear of some incroachment being made upon their privileges, by offences committed within their limits being carried before another jurisdiction for trial, and most earnestly intreating him to preserve their ancient rights. To this his interest seems to have been fully sufficient; for when the new chancellor, in 1500, reappointed Sir Reginald to his office of high steward (it expiring at that period on the death or cession of each chancellor) and in that capacity presented him to the king for his approbation, Henry, in his letters patent, not only accepted the nomination, but also recognized the franchises of the university, as including the right of hearing the criminal causes of scholars and other privileged persons, allowing him and his other assessors, or any two of them, to proceed in the common form against offenders. After this he had many other grants, particularly of the farm of the Isle of Wight, the chamberlainship of the county palatine of Chester, and the chancellorship of the duchy of Lancaster.

That he must have made a good and patriotic use of all these favours, appears from his not having made himself any enemies, at least, of consequence sufficient to be recorded by his biographers; it is also more fully proved by existing monuments of his taste for the fine arts, the chapel of St. George at Windsor, and of his own immediate sovereign at Westminster, bearing witness both to his taste and liberality. To the chapel of St. George he not only appropriated much of his time in directing and superintending its embellishment, but he also expended large sums in its erection, and left it a considerable legacy for repairs, after his death. The chapel in the south aisle, which still bears his name, was built at his expense; and his device (a hemp break) may yet be seen in many parts of that venerable and august edifice.

He has always had the credit of being the draftsman of the design of Henry the Seventh's chapel; and he and the abbot Islip laid the first stone in conjunction, in 1502.

He married Catharine, daughter of Nicholas Husee, a descendant of the ancient barons of that name, but left no issue by her. He died soon after laying the first stone of Henry's chapel, and was buried at his own chapel at Windsor, where his coffin was discovered in 1740, but immediately covered with an arch, to prevent its future disturbance.

His character by Hollinsbed is honourably and simply expressed; he calls him "a verie father of his countrie; and for his high wisdom, and singular love to justice, well worthie to beare that title. If anie thing had bene donne

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alone have escaped demolition. In Habyngdon's time, the north window contained the different occurrences of our Saviour's life and miracles, together with the paternoster, &c. and, in short, the whole system of the Christian doctrine; these are all effaced, except some scattered pieces; and nothing is left throughout but a few armorial bearings, and some things which seem to be symbolical of the various branches of architecture: but why these have been introduced it is now impossible to explain. The body is Saxon, by the arches; of course we must suppose that Sir Reginald did not *build*, but *re-edify*, this church; and the chancel is Gothic. The whole is now undergoing a thorough repair, and the ceiling is completed, being painted in imitation of the ancient raised work, but rather too gaudy in the colouring. On entrance, the stranger cannot help noticing some of the old stalls, which have been moved from the body of the church during the repair; and whose seats exhibit, in the usual style, some very *grotesque*, and some very *indecent* carvings. Things, which nothing but their antiquity could justify being here. The choir, or service part, is well, though anciently, fitted up; and the altar, though plain, is yet impressive. The altar screen, the sides and steps leading up to it, and the ground between it and the east end, have been originally covered with tiles of red ground, with orange figures, containing the armorial bearings of many ancient families, particularly Bohun, Earl of Northampton; Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick; Mortimer, Earl of March; Clare, Earl of Gloucester; Beauchamp of Powick; and some few with the arms of Edward the Confessor, and the cypher of Henry IV.

There are many ancient monuments well worth examining; but a specific detail would far exceed our limits. We must notice, however, that of *John Knotsford, Esq.* his wife and five daughters,

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amisse, contrarie to law and equitie, he would, after an humble sort, plainlie blame the king, and give him good advertisement that he shoulde not only reforme the same, but alsoe be more circumspecte in anie other the like case."*

* Further particulars may be found in Manning's Survey of the County of Surrey.

on a very curious alabaster tomb at the south side of the choir near the altar. This has been lately repaired, and restored, by a descendant still living in the parish.

The monument of *Richard Corbet*, a knight Templar, was probably erected before the 14th century,* and is a very plain table monument, without any ornaments whatever. The sides and ends of the tomb are covered with tiles, five inches and a half square, that seem to have been of a red and yellow colour, like the others with the armorial bearings. This was drawn in 1778, by Major Hayman Rooke, who has distinguished himself much by his antiquarian research.

There is another ancient one which *Stukeley* saw when it was in better preservation than at the present day. He describes it as a carved stone image, by the south wall of the choir, of very rude and ancient workmanship; it is a knight, hooded, covered with mail and his surcoat; in his right hand a halbert, like a pick-axe; in his left a round target.† This figure, says *Gough*,‡ is in the oldest mail armour. An engraving of it may be seen in *Clarke's Ancient Sculpture*, Vol. II. p. 13.

There are many other monuments of the ancestors of the present noble family of Lygon, &c. and many modern tablets to the memory of those who came in hopes of benefit from the waters, but were left behind by their sorrowing friends. Among these we were particularly struck with a simple white tablet

“ Sacred to the memory
Of Miss Grace Colt,
Only daughter of Robert Colt, Esq.
Of Auldbarn, East Lothian.
Died 27th August, 1802,
Aged 21.

“ His

* *Antiq. Repert.* Vol. II. p. 374.

† *Stukeley's Itinerary.*

‡ *Gough's Sepul. Mon.* Vol. II. CCXIV.

His cheerful watch some guardian angel keeps
Around the tomb where youth and virtue lie ;
Mourn then no more, her spirit only sleeps,
Such worth, such genuine worth can never die."

We know not if the lines are original; but their truth and simplicity must plead an excuse for insertion.

In the garden belonging to the priory house, then belonging to Mrs. Savage, on the 22d of May, 1711, and which is situated on the south side of the church, where once stood the cloisters, was dug up a flat stone, now preserved in the church. It was the tombstone of *Walcher*, the second prior, and has already been given in *prose* in several publications; but as it is really in curious monkish rhyme, we shall take the liberty of inserting it.

" Philosophus bonus dignus
Astrologus lotheringus,
Vir pius et humilis,
Monachus prior hujus ovilis,
Hic jacet in cista
Geometricus et Abacista,
Doctor Walcherus.

Flet plebs, dolet undique clerus ;
Huic lux prima mori
Dedit Octobris seniori ;
Vivet ut in cœlis
Exhoret quisque fidelis. 1135."

We cannot quit this part of the subject without noticing that it is now undergoing a complete repair, which is absolutely necessary to preserve such a curious and interesting edifice from destruction. In 1802, an experienced architect, Mr. Tatham, was employed to survey, and make an estimate of the necessary expense for these repairs; he stated, in his report, that he was of opinion, that the church was capable of such a repair as might render

it fit for divine service, and preserve the building for many years; and, as a further inducement to this undertaking, he very judiciously added, that its antiquity, magnificence, and beauty, combine to render it worthy of being preserved as a specimen of Gothic architecture, in which respect it is little inferior to any in the kingdom. It was added, that as no sufficient fund had existed for its repair, since the dissolution, when this noble conventual church became parochial, and as the parishioners themselves were now unable to bear the expense without assistance, it would be expedient immediately to commence a subscription for the sum of 1000*l.* in order to give it at once such substantial repairs as were absolutely necessary for its preservation. Handsome sums were immediately subscribed; but much more is wanting to finish it; yet it is hoped that the liberality of visitors to this healthful spring will enable the work to be completed.*

Connected with this subject, is that of the *Sunday-school*, which at present consists of sixty children; but the funds of this very charitable institution being at present very much reduced, from the unavoidable expenses attending it, a general solicitation is made to all visitors to contribute their mite, into the hands of the landlords at the various hotels; in which those who chuse to unite charity with pleasure may thus indulge themselves.

The visitors to these fountains of health, who reside in the village, are naturally attracted to

ST. ANNE'S WELL,

which rises from the hill, immediately at the back of the Crown hotel; the pleasantest road is through the garden of that house, to which the approach leads from the level of the first floor. The side of this hill is here so steep, that the paths are made to lead
in

* Hon. E. Foley, 100*l.* Lord Visct. Beauchamp, 50 guineas. A. Lechmere, Esq. 50*l.* Late Bishop of Worcester, 50*l.* Rev. R. M. Graves, vicar, 30*l.* Lord Dudley and Ward, 50*l.* Lord Eardley, 50*l.* Earl of Coventry, 50 guineas. Present Bishop of Worcester, 50*l.* Lord Foley, 50*l.* Lord Lyttelton, 30 guineas. Lady Lyttelton, 20 guineas. These, with several other smaller sums, have been already subscribed.

in a zigzag direction; but being very neatly kept, and having seats at proper distances, from which there are enchanting prospects to amuse the invalid whilst resting, the fatigue of the ascent is scarcely felt. Here there is a small pump room; and the visitor will not grudge, at his arrival, to pay a small sum towards the repair and preservation of those walks, which lead him so commodiously to the salutiferous stream. But the most frequented is the

HOLYWELL,

which lies about two miles to the southward of the village of Great Malvern, on the eastern side of the hill. The ramble to this place from the village is delightful, as the roads are kept in very fine order; on one side the tourist is charmed with the swelling hills in all their majesty and wildness, on the other he sees some of the neighbouring villas, surrounded by verdant foliage, beyond which is an extensive plain, uniting itself with the vale of Severn, and all its picturesque beauty. He now arrives at the *Wells boarding-house*, a very handsome white building, standing in a garden, whose gravelled walks, interspersed with shrubs and flowers, lead him not only to various seats judiciously placed so as to catch the best views, but also facilitate his ascent to the well itself. On the right of the high road, he will observe the *Wells hotel*, a large and commodious building, with every convenience for the standing of carriages, &c. Here is also a billiard room; and the visitor may either enjoy himself in seclusion at the hotel, or join the social parties at the *Boarding-house*, where he will always meet a great variety of company, from the frequent changes which take place between this and Cheltenham, &c. Passing on to the steepest ascent of the hill, several pleasant lodging houses present themselves; the spring itself has a convenient pump room, and here also are baths and pumps for external use. From this spot, a well conducted walk leads through the most romantic meanders, to the very top of the hill, in the most imperceptible manner, from whence, even the infirm, without fatigue, may accompany us in our ramble. To the southward, not quite a mile

distant, is the *Herefordshire Beacon*, which, though strictly speaking in another county, claims our notice here. It is an ancient camp, but of uncertain origin; most probably a British station, and successively occupied both by Romans and Saxons, as it in some measure partakes of their various modes of fortification. Its existing remains are nothing more than a double ditch, or two entrenchments, conducted nearly in a circle around the very summit of the hill; the uppermost one extending about 700 feet, and the lower being about a mile in circumference. These trenches remain in some parts to a depth of twelve feet, and in many places are thirty feet wide. Even the avenues, or passes, are in some measure in good preservation, and the whole work is calculated to contain at least twenty thousand troops.

The curious stranger will also visit, whilst here, a cave cut in the rock at a small distance on the south side of the camp. No tradition relates its history; it is merely an oval, about ten feet long, six broad, and seven high, with an entrance six feet in height and four wide; and it appears throughout of the rudest and earliest workmanship. Returning again along the ridge towards the *Worcestershire Beacon*, we arrive at a rude building erected on the very summit, close to the Earl of Gloucester's ditch: it is constructed of sods, and having a comfortable range of seats, serves equally as a resting place to the invalid, or a shelter to those caught in the passing shower. A short distance further, leads to a steep precipice, which looks down upon the *Wyte*, a deep chasm cut through the rocks in order to shorten the ascent, and render the passage over the hills in this place, more safe and easy. It is not indeed very convenient for carriages, but is a very short cut for equestrians from Malvern to Ledbury. A very short walk will lead us, on the *Herefordshire* side of the hills, past this chasm, and from thence to the *Worcestershire Beacon*; from whence, still keeping to the northward, we descend into a deep winding vale, without either cottage or shrub to relieve the eye, and for a few minutes may suppose ourselves in the wildest deserts of Africa, until we catch a winding walk, which we may cross towards
the



1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes that this is crucial for ensuring transparency and accountability in the organization's operations.

2. The second part outlines the specific procedures and protocols that must be followed when recording transactions. This includes details on how data should be collected, stored, and reviewed to ensure its integrity and accuracy.

3. The third part addresses the role of various departments and individuals in the record-keeping process. It clarifies the responsibilities of each party involved, ensuring that everyone understands their contribution to the overall system.

4. The fourth part discusses the importance of regular audits and reviews of the records. It explains how these checks help identify any discrepancies or errors early on, allowing for prompt correction and preventing larger issues from arising.

5. The fifth part covers the security measures in place to protect the records from unauthorized access or tampering. It details the use of secure storage methods and access controls to safeguard sensitive information.

6. The sixth part provides information on the training and support available for staff members involved in the record-keeping process. It ensures that all personnel are well-equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to perform their duties effectively.

7. The seventh part discusses the integration of the record-keeping system with other organizational systems and processes. It highlights how this integration streamlines workflows and improves the efficiency of data management.

8. The eighth part addresses the long-term retention and archiving of records. It outlines the policies for how long records should be kept and the methods for securely archiving them for future reference.

9. The ninth part discusses the importance of maintaining up-to-date documentation of the record-keeping system itself. This includes keeping track of any changes, updates, or modifications made to the system over time.

10. The tenth and final part provides a summary of the key points discussed throughout the document. It reiterates the overall goals and objectives of the record-keeping system and encourages ongoing commitment to its success.



the ascent of the North hill, and then return by it into the village.

Another ramble still remains for the tourist, which he may commence by examining the antique remains of the ABBEY GATE, that stands nearly opposite to the Crown Hotel. This is of the architecture of the age of Henry VI. or VII. and is in very good preservation, adorned with Gothic niches, in which were formerly the images of various saints; and its windows, though now devoid of glass, are in some measure filled up with remnants of tracery. A better idea of it, however, may be formed from the accompanying plate, than from any description. It led formerly to the monastic part of the building, of which there are very few remains; but the manorial house, erected on the ruins, still exists, and is a very good specimen of the style of domestic architecture of the reigns of Elizabeth and James. It is now occupied as a boarding-house.

The elegance of the following description, as well as its truth, must have been so often felt on these health breathing hills, that we are confident its insertion will not be considered as inappropriate.*

“ Lo! yonder slowly o’er the breezy lawn,
Walks ONE, with every beauty once adorn’d
That woman envies, and that man admires,
Hardly supported by the wearied arm,
Which led her up from infancy to youth—
So profitless. Revers’d seems nature’s law:
The child, before the parent, youth, old age
Outstripping, journeys foremost to the tomb—
—Ah! say, then will revisit health,
Yon drooping fair one?—To that cheek so pale
Will its lost blush return? And will that eye,
Once beaming loveliness, but now o’ercast
With deadly languor, ever be relum’d?
Blow soft, ye breezes! from the flowery vales

Which

* Booker’s Malvern.

Which far beneath her feet expansive lie :
 Flow pure ye springs ! to which her lips she gives,
 And her enfeebled frame.——Ye unknown powers
 Medicinal ! impregnating those springs——
 Hygieia's own—unloose your latent stores,
 The nerve relax'd to brace ; the vital tide
 Exhausted to replenish : Oh ! restore
 The lovely stranger blooming to her friends
 Affectionate, solicitous ; to bless,
 Through many a happy year, the pow'r divine
 Who, by your means, her lengthen'd being gave.
 'Tis done ! the breezes, from the flow'ry vales
 Freight'd with balmy sweets, did softly blow,
 Restorative ; the crystal springs their stores
 Medicinal and sanative convey'd
 To her pale lips, and cheeks, and trembling limbs.
 And see ! those lips and cheeks e'erwhile so pale,
 Resume the hue of ruby and of rose ;
 Those limbs e'erwhile so trembling, bear to climb
 The mountain's summit, where——

—she stands

Entranc'd in rapture at the glorious scene,
 Which, measureless and vast, extends around.
 There, as on some stupendous altar, rear'd
 To health's restorer, she, the hymn of praise
 Pours grateful ; then the devious path retreads,
 Gently descending from the height sublime ;
 And soon, all healing Malvern ! bids adieu
 To thy salubrious springs and verdant hills,
 Blessing and blest by those at home rever'd."

If so long a quotation should require an apology, we are certain it will always be found, whenever the perusal of those lines shall cause the smile of hope to mantle round the hectic cheek of faded, yet still interesting, beauty.

Extending our walk either across the fields, or along the road to the Holy well, which we must pass, and proceeding nearly a mile further, we arrive at

LITTLE



LITTLE MALVERN,

which was also a religious house, but not so large and magnificent in its buildings as Great Malvern, from which it is three miles distant. It lies on a recumbent slope, near the entrance of an extensive hollow in the range of hills, and not far from the turning off of the new road to Ledbury; it is surrounded by thick hedge rows, which conceal it from the view, but render the approaches to it rather dirty and inconvenient. It was formerly a considerable village, though it now contains only a few houses; and, as far back as the reign of Elizabeth, seems to have been fully inhabited; for in Bishop Sandys's return to the privy council, it is said to contain thirty-seven families; whereas now, Dr. Nash observes, it contains a smaller number, which decrease may be owing to the dissolution of the priory, and disafforesting the chase; as the former supplied the poor with provisions, and the latter with firing, and food for their cows, horses, pigs, &c.

It was a Benedictine priory and cell to Worcester: founded in 1171 by two brothers, Joceline and Edred, who were successively priors here.* St. Giles was the patron saint, and it maintained a prior and seven monks until the dissolution, when it was valued at 98l. and afterwards granted to Richard Andrews, and Nicholas Temple.

The Church is partly in ruins, and forms a very picturesque and interesting object, particularly where the ruins of the cross aisle on each side, with their Gothic windows and fine tracery, still remain. The outside of the body of the church, as well as the ruinous parts, is covered with mantling ivy, whose deep green in some places, is well contrasted with the glow of some remnants of painted glass, whose armorial blazonry speaks of times long past. But the inside of the building is poor in the extreme. Formerly the windows were filled with storied ornaments like those at Great Malvern. In the east window of the choir, were likenesses of Edward IV. of his queen, and their children; but these are nearly gone, as are also several monuments of great antiquity. Habyng-

* Tanner's Not. Mon.

don says that in his time, in the south aisle, there lay a knight all armed, saving his face; his right hand on his sword: his legs crossed, shewing him to be a knight of the Holy Crusade against the Saracens. On his right hand, lay his lady with her arms crossed, which he supposes alluded to her having accompanied her husband in his military religious pilgrimage. But almost all traces of these are now gone. Some armorial bearings and remnants of other painted glass may be seen in the windows; and there are several mural tablets and large achievements near the altar; but all the rest is ruin and desolation, of which, on the exterior, the accompanying plate affords a very good idea. The floor in some parts yet exhibits the remains of a pavement once tessellated: and some carving, once exquisite of its kind, yet may be traced on an ancient beam.

Near the church is an antique wood-framed building, on the site of the Old Priory: its romantic and sequestered situation cannot fail to strike at first view, whether we look down upon it from the impending hill, or contemplate it from amidst the gloomy ruins of the church. But we cannot give a better description of its retired and solemn situation than in the words of a local historian, who observes that the house, which has lately undergone considerable improvements, (now the property and residence of Mrs. Wakeman,) has in front a fine piece of water, and commands various and beautiful prospects. The declivity of the adjoining glen, clothed with bold impending wood, and the hill receding above, afford an appearance pleasingly romantic. To the eastward lies an expanse of fertile meadow, variegated with trees, which add much to the beauty of the situation. Here, adds this pleasing writer, art has a venerable aspect given to it by time—here nature is rendered pleasing by her exuberance and charming simplicity.

To describe the romantic variety, the picturesque amenity, of the various *rides* of this charming district, would be to recapitulate much of what we have already said; for, indeed, every part of the high roads around it may be considered as leading to new beauties.

beauties. But we must not omit a recent plan for improvement, by an intended new road along the east side, and round the north end of the Malvern range. It is proposed that this road shall commence, and gradually ascend, from the seven mile stone on the Link, (a wide common at the north end of the village,) in a proportion of one inch and a quarter per yard, for 1600 yards, when it will join the present high road in the parish of *Cradley*, nearly adjoining the parish of *Mathon*. The road already finished through the latter parish, skirting the western limit of the hills, is at present in excellent repair for a considerable distance; and when the above-mentioned 1600 yards are added to it, (the estimate of which is near 400*l*.) it is intended that the overplus of the subscription money, now raising for this purpose, shall be expended towards extending the projected road along the western side of the hills, to connect it with the present high road above Little Malvern; so that a good carriage road will then encircle those beautiful hills, and enable even the most valetudinary to enjoy, at ease, their delightful scenery.*

Having thus rambled over all the beauties of Malvern, Great and Little, it is time to examine the

MEDICAL PROPERTIES

of this charming district. We may say therefore, in the words of Dr. Nash, with respect both to *ST. ANNE'S*, and the *HOLY WELL*, that extraordinary purity is the distinguishing characteristic of each, in which particular they exceed any others yet known; so that the water is enabled to pass through the smallest vessels of the human body; and, not being loaded in any great proportion with any salts or earth, is capable of dissolving more than those waters which are already saturated with extraneous matter of whatever kind.

When drank immediately as it issues from the spring, it leaves a peculiar

* Very liberal subscriptions have already taken place for this purpose: Lord Beauchamp, 50*l*. Hon. W. B. Lygon, 25*l*. Hon. E. Foley, 100*l*. Lord Foley, 25*l*. Lady Harcourt, Sir Robert Wigram, 10 guineas each. A. Cliffe, W. Wall, H. Dangerfield, Esqrs. 20 guineas each, &c. &c.

peculiar tartness in the throat, and it mixes freely with either acids or alkalies.

Many analyses of these waters have taken place; but we shall avail ourselves of the most recent observations from the ingenious pen of Mr. Horner.* He states that Dr. Wilson of Worcester analyzed them in 1805, but that neither of the wells afforded any other gaseous contents than atmospheric air. A gallon of the *Holy-well* water yielded fourteen and a half grains of solid ingredients, of which there were five of carbonate of soda, one and a half of carbonate of lime, one of carbonate of magnesia, one and a half of carbonate of iron, three of sulphate of soda, and one and a half of muriate of soda: these were the proportions, without going into the minutiae of decimal fractions.

St. Anne's Well only produced seven and a half grains from one gallon; being three and a half carbonate of soda, one and a half sulphate of soda, one muriate of soda, and very small proportions of carbonate of lime, carbonate of magnesia, and carbonate of iron.

Near Great Malvern, also, there is a spring that affords a lightly impregnated chalybeate water, of which kind this is perhaps the most free from earthy or calcareous matter of any within the kingdom. It has been eminently serviceable in consumptive complaints, in nervous disorders, and for emaciated constitutions. By an analysis of the ingenious Dr. Wall, it contains about six grains of solid matter to a gallon; and he adds, that it seems to challenge one of the first places among waters of this class; for though it is not so highly impregnated with iron as some others, yet it is sufficiently so to answer every purpose of a chalybeate; and being much less loaded with earth than others, he thinks that it seems probable the ferruginous particles will, for that reason, be more readily and intimately mixed with the blood and juices, whilst the water, by its extreme purity pervading the finest vessels, washes away the acrimonious salts, and obstructing viscidities.

* Transactions of the Geological Society, Vol. I.

cidities. This water at the spring head, instantly strikes a fine purple with galls; and, if carefully taken up and close corked, will retain the same property several hours; but the colour grows gradually more and more pale, and at the last approaches to the orange. To have this water, therefore, in full perfection, the Dr. advises, that it should be drank at the source.

Mr. Horner, however, notices that on the western side of the Hereford Beacon, there is a well more strongly impregnated than any of the Worcestershire ones, having twelve grains of solid matter in a gallon. This is *Walms Well*, and has long been used by the country people in the neighbourhood, as an outward application in cutaneous diseases. The water flows in a pretty copious stream, and at the place where it issues from the hill, is collected by an embankment, so as to form a large bath. By a recent analysis of this gentleman, which seems to have been conducted with great accuracy and chemical discrimination, it appears to contain carbonate of lime as the principal ingredient, carbonate of magnesia, in minute quantity, muriate of soda, or more properly magnesia, and sulphate of soda.

As it was totally impossible for a summer tourist, to procure all the medical information respecting these wells, the editor will here avail himself of the various information collected by a gentleman long resident in their vicinity, and which may be found more at large in his local description of Malvern and its scenery; a work now becoming scarce, but well deserving another edition. On his authority, then, we can state the medicinal virtues of these waters, as having been repeatedly experienced by the afflicted: not only amongst the inhabitants of the surrounding country, but by invalids who have come here from different parts of the empire. In scrofulous cases in particular, the *Holy Well* water, has proved of singular benefit to many afflicted objects, who have arrived at Malvern in the most deplorable condition, yet soon found relief, and, in a comparatively short space of time, were perfectly cured by the judicious and constant application of this salutary fountain. In ophthalmic disorders, also, it has seldom failed of being serviceable;
and

and it is said that cases have happened in which the regular *formulæ* of medical prescriptions were inefficient, but which have, nevertheless, been cured at Malvern.

In cutaneous disorders, and even in cancerous complaints, and in old stubborn ulcers, it has had the effect of restoring the constitution to soundness, to health, and vigour; also in glandular obstructions; in nephritic complaints; and, indeed, in several others. But then, independent of the water, we must attend to the late judicious Dr. Johnstone, M. D. of Worcester, who, disdaining all quackery, boldly and candidly averred it to be his opinion, that the temperate warmth of the air, and great purity of the waters at Malvern and its vicinity, were its principal recommendations, and induced him to consider that situation more peculiarly adapted for patients afflicted with nervous disorders, or inclined to consumptions; especially in the summer, or autumnal months. It must be remembered, however, that in most of these complaints now mentioned, the external, as well as internal, use of the water is necessary. In the more extended scorbutic and scrofulous affections, complete and frequent ablution of the whole body must be added to a free use internally; but in more topical complaints, such as partial ulcers, &c. it is found sufficient to admit the water on the affected part from the spout, or to keep it constantly covered with an application of wet linen. But even to all these directions there are still more important ones to be added, particularly to the general class of patients: with these, early rising, and a salutary degree of exercise, either pedestrian or equestrian, previous to the use of the water, and for some time afterwards, must always form a principal part of the regimen of convalescence; for thereby they will add to the circulation of the blood, not only by the mechanical effects of the exercise, but also by the inhalation of a greater quantity of the pure atmospheric oxygen, which will give considerable assistance to the waters in their beneficial process. This will be attended also with other good effects; for, Mr. Barret observes, the air that they will breathe in these walks and rides, and, indeed, in every part of the Malvern hills,

hills, is so very refreshing, as to have a great tendency to create an appetite, and to revive the spirits : and this pure atmosphere seems to extend its stimulating influence even to the surrounding country, where the inhabitants are very seldom visited by epidemic diseases.

It has long been a superstitious opinion with the people of this neighbourhood, that great quantities of treasure have been deposited, in times past, on this range of hills. The origin of this is not easy to account for; but it has been considerably strengthened by some casual discoveries, particularly about forty years ago, when a quantity of silver coins were found in the parish of Mathon. The exact amount was never known, and indeed the finders were so much afraid of being obliged to give it up as a manorial right, that we believe not even their date or origin were allowed to be known, except to those who purchased them for the purpose of melting down.

Camden notices a discovery, as valuable as it was singular, and which, had it not been for the same ignorant and selfish principle, might have served to elucidate ancient history; this was a crown, or coronet of gold; and the finding of it is detailed at length in an old MS. in Jesus College, Oxford, which says, that within the distance of a musket shot of the trenches of the camp, in the parish of Colwall in Herefordshire, was found in the year 1650, by Thomas Tailor, near Burstner's cross, as he was digging a ditch round his cottage, a coronet or bracelet of gold set with precious stones, of a size to be drawn over the arm or sleeve. It was sold to Mr. Hill, a jeweller in Gloucester, for 37l. Hill sold it to a jeweller in Lombard Street, London, for 250l. and the jeweller sold the stones, which were deeply inlaid, for 1500l.

Having already assisted the mineralogical tourist, by pointing out the most remarkable particulars in his favorite pursuit, it remains now to give a few *botanical notices* to those who wish to join the study of nature to the pursuit of health.

We shall, therefore, briefly enumerate a few of those specimens

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which

which are found in greatest perfection, in the compass of a morning's walk round the hills.

Great Wild Climber. *Clematis vitalba*. A most exuberant parasitical plant, twisting round every thing in its way, and even hauling down the fences—a troublesome hedge-weed—the cottony hairs of this shrub, are said to be manufactured for some purposes in France; and have been recommended here for the stuffing of chair-bottoms.

Spreading bell flower. *Campanula patula*. Along the hedges and sides of the roads.

Snow-drop. *Galanthus Nivalis*. A very pretty specimen in February and April; but too early for visitants.

Meadow saffron, or autumnal *Colchicum*. Found in the pastures and low meadows between Madresfield and Blackmore park, &c. Its root has long been in great esteem as a specific for the dropsy.

White stone-crop. *Sedum album*. Whilst sauntering amongst the rocks round St. Anne's Well, many handsome specimens of this may be found.

Wood calamint. *Melissa Calamintha*. Is plentiful in the thickets, and amongst hedge rows in the very fullest time of the season.

White climbing fumitory. *Fumaria Clavicularia*. Is found in great quantities in the rough stony places by the sides of the hills, particularly on the eastern declivity.

Before we proceed to a ramble amongst the various seats of the nobility and gentry in the vicinity, it will not be unamusing to peruse a *poetical* description of this place, composed at least 220 years ago, by the parish clerk; but though known to remain in MS. never printed until the publication of Nash's Survey in 1778.

“ As I did walk alone
Late in an evening,
I heard the voice of one
Most sweetly singing :

Which

Which did delight me much,
Because the song was such,
And ended with a touch,

O ! praise the Lord.

The God of sea and land
That rules above us,
Stays his avenging hand;
'Cause he doth love us,
And doth his blessings send,
Although we do offend ;
Then let us all amend,

And praise the Lord.

Great Malvern on a rock,
Thou standest surely,
Do not thyself forget,
Living securely :
Thou hast of blessings store,
No country town hath more,
Do not forget, therefore,

To praise the Lord.

Thou hast a famous church,
And rarely builded :
No country town hath such,
Most men have yielded,
For pillars stout and strong,
And windows large and long :
Remember in thy song,

To praise the Lord.

There is God's service read
With rev'rence duly ;
There is his word preached,
Learned and truly :
And every sabbath day,
Singing of psalms they say,
Its surely the only way,

To praise the Lord.

The sun in glory great,
 When first it dresth,
 Doth bless thy happy east,
 And thee advineth,
 That when 'tis time to pray,
 That God may bless thy way,
 And keep thee all the day,
 To praise the Lord.

That thy prospect is good,
 None can deny thee ;
 Thou hast great store of wood
 Growing hard by thee ;
 Which is a blessing great
 To roast and boil thy meat,
 And thee in cold to heat,
 O ! praise the Lord.

Preserve it I advise.
 Whilst thou hast it ;
 Spare not in any wise,
 But do not waste it :
 Lest thou repent too late,
 Remember Hanley's fate,
 In time shut up thy gate,
 And praise the Lord.

A chase for royal deer
 Round doth beset thee ;
 Too many I doe fear
 For aught they get thee ;
 Yet tho' they eat away,
 Thy corn, thy grass, and hay,
 Doe not forget, I say,
 To praise the Lord.

That noble chase doth give
 Thy beasts their feeding ;
 Where they in summer live,
 With little heeding ;

Thy

Thy swine and sheep there go,
So doth thy horse also,
Till winter brings in snow ;

Then praise the Lord.

Turn up thine eyes on high,
There fairly standing,
See Malvern's highest hill,
All hills commanding ;
They all confess at will,
Their sovereign Malvern hill ;
Let it be mighty still !

O praise the Lord.

When western winds doe rock
Both town and country,
Thy hill doth break the shock,
They cannot hurt thee ;
When waters great abound,
And many a country's drown'd,
Thou standest safe and sound,

O praise the Lord.

Out of that famous hill
There daily springeth
A water, passing still,
Which always bringeth
Great comfort to all them
That are diseased men,
And makes them well again,

To praise the Lord.

Hast thou a wound to heal,
The which doth grieve thee ?
Come then unto this well,
It will relieve thee ;
Noli me tangeres
And other maladies,
Have here their remedies,

Prais'd be the Lord.

To drink thy waters, store
 Lie in thy bushes,*
 Many with ulcers sore,
 Many with bruises;
 Who succour find from ill,
 By money given still;
 Thanks to the Christian will:
 O praise the Lord,

A thousand bottles there,
 Were filled weekly,
 And many costlily rare
 For stomachs sickly;
 Some of them into Kent,
 Some were to London sent,
 Others to Berwick went;
 O praise the Lord."

Of more modern poetasters, it is only necessary to mention the names of Mr. Cottle, and Dr. Brooker, both of whom have written poems under the title of "Malvern."

We shall now proceed to ramble through the various seats in the vicinity, and shall commence our tour with

MADRESFIELD,

the elegant modernized seat of the Right Hon. Lord Viscount Beauchamp, of Powick. The luxuriant woods of lofty oaks and spreading elm and beech, which surround this charming mansion, are in full view from the village of Malvern, stretching over to the banks of Severn; but the house is entirely hid, except from the summit of the hills. In a right line, the distance is perhaps not two miles; but by the Worcester road to Newland Green, and thence to the house, may be nearly three. Passing Newland chapel to the right, a level road brings the stranger to a handsome

* Though modern visitors do not now lie in bushes, yet so crowded was Malvern last season, that a lady of rank and fashion, with her equipage and servants, were actually obliged to be sent to the workhouse!

some modern park-gate, with lodges of cut stone, from whence a well gravelled winding road, thickly skirted with trees, leads him to the small parish chapel, now in the grounds. This rustic scene of mortality, though close to the road, is so completely embosomed in trees, as to shew nothing but its humble turret and spire peeping forth, until it is approached, when it appears in all the solemn silence adapted to such a scene. Though very small, it has double aisles, quite in the Gothic style, and is extremely neat in the inside, but without destroying its air of antiquity; and altogether presents a very picturesque appearance.

A fine extent of lawns and rising plantations are now seen through the trees to the left, as they have judiciously been cleared of their underwood for that effect; some well formed and quite inartificial pieces of water also appear; and at different breaks the house, with its venerable moat, are sometimes caught; when at once, by a sudden sweep, the tourist opens an extensive lawn, with the mansion on his left. It has been said that this is a true representation of an ancient baronial castle; but the fact is simply, that it is an old baronial castle, but unfortunately too much modernized in some parts of the outside; a fault, however, which the present noble proprietors seem to have in some measure corrected. At the same time we are obliged to confess, that in those parts where the mansion has gained in comfort, convenience, and elegance, it has unavoidably parted with a portion of its ancient grandeur.

Still, however, the very first glance brings back the days of old to the imagination; the moat still sleeps along the walls, whose grey foundations spring from the water; the bridge which crosses to the gate also has much an air of antiquity; and though the excursions of fancy may, at first sight, have been a little checked by unbattlemented walls, and square modern windows; yet the gateway, with its flat Gothic arch, its grated doors, its spandril roof, and solemn silence, soon restore that illusion which destroys the recollection of intervening centuries, and peoples the gloom with iron-clad knights, stiff-bodded dames, sprightly

pages, milk-white palfreys, the twanging horn, and the minstrel's tinkling melody.

This impression is still kept up in crossing the interior court, which is irregularly grand, and surrounded by the most antique part of the house. We now pass through a vestibule, and enter the

HALL,

which is a lofty ancient apartment, well preserved, or rather restored; for we believe the house suffered much in 1646, when it was a garrison for the king, being taken from the Lygons, who were then on the parliament side, and kept against several attacks, until it surrendered along with Worcester. The lofty ancient roof is in good preservation; and a fine effect is produced by the glow of the modern painted glass in its richly tinted windows, which throw a most striking light upon some very large paintings from the Shakespeare gallery, whose subjects are well adapted to the scene around. Some elegant candelabres are also here displayed; and a solemn gallery, dimly lighted from windows of orange and purple glass, and ornamented with some antique and highly valuable marble slabs, leads us to the

BREAKFAST ROOM,

which is rather low, as are indeed most of the *ancient* apartments in the mansion; but is elegantly fitted up in a most domestic style, with a handsome bow recess, and some very superb cabinets. From hence, the

SALOON,

which is highly deserving of notice, for the elegant profusion of its painted glass, producing the mellowed tone of evening, even in the glare of day, leads us to two

DRAWING ROOMS,

superb in the extreme, without at the same time being rendered unfit for social intercourse, as is too much the case with many apartments of laboured magnificence. Here are elegant marble slabs, which are interesting not only to the mere hunter after fine furniture, but even to the naturalist. Here also are some very
curious

curious cabinets of highly gilt brass, and tortoiseshell, from the *Garde Meuble* of Louis XVI. ; and here is even the one which stood in his own private chamber, not only before the Revolution, but for some time after its commencement. The ideas excited by this specimen of magnificence, and memorial of departed, insulted royalty, are of a nature that will not admit of description ; but must naturally strike every feeling heart with a conception of their force and extent ! We now enter the

DINING PARLOUR,

which is rich in the extreme, though so *elegant* as even to seem plain amidst its glow of decoration. Its walls are crimson, with white pannels and ornaments, interspersed with classical medallions in *Chiaro Scuro*. Over the chimney-piece is a very handsome flower-piece, quite in the style of Van Huysum. The candelabra are classically elegant ; and the general effect of the apartment is well preserved, and even heightened, by the judicious light which is admitted only from one fine window. This apartment leads into the *Orangery*, which, indeed, seems to form part of it ; and the effect produced when its doors are thrown open, by the gleams of tinted light from its painted glass crossing the simple rays from the dining-room window, is rich and *bizarre* in the extreme ; whilst the perfume arising from its glowing exotics adds to the general impression. The windows of the orangery open at once to the grounds, which, seen through their variegated shades, have a most picturesque effect.

A steep staircase, which seems constructed in one of the ancient *towers*, being too broad for a *turret*, leads into the

WINTER DRAWING ROOM,

an apartment where there seems to have been a sedulous attention paid, lest comfort should be sacrificed to shew ; yet elegance has not been neglected. This room is hung with great taste ; and its walls are in some measure covered with a profusion of rich *Miniatures*, commencing with *Holbein's*, several of which are evidently originals, and containing a variety of the most distinguished characters, male and female, foreigners as well as natives, in the
different

different reigns, from Henry VIII. to Charles II. One of them, in particular, is highly curious, being but the size of a common miniature, and containing seventy heads, all of which are portraits! Books, music, &c. complete the furniture of this handsome apartment, which opens into the

LONG GALLERY.

This is the ancient gallery of the old mansion, and is preserved quite in its antique state, but rendered sufficiently comfortable and commodious for domestic purposes; and it seems to be now the general morning room of the family. Its furniture is in a good style; and it is ornamented with a profusion of pictures, books, busts, china, &c. and is, in short, quite a cabinet of curiosities. From its windows are some very fine views of the grounds, and of distant scenery; and from it opens the

KING'S ROOM,

as it is called; a plain simple bedchamber, in which the family tradition says, that King Charles II. slept the night before the battle of Worcester.* From this we go to a

STATE BED-ROOM,

containing an elegant bed, whose quilt and furniture, of flowered damask, embroidered in coloured silks, were worked by Queen Anne and the Duchess of Marlborough. We now descend the

STAIRCASE,

which is light and airy, and has a good Dutch painting of a shipwreck.

Upon the whole, the variety of curious, as well as elegant, fur-

* Greene says, that the house at the corner of the north end of New-street, on its east side, is said to have been the king's quarters whilst at Worcester. The tradition, he adds, is handed down in strong and direct terms by the oldest inhabitants of the city, and by the relatives of the proprietors and possessors of the house at that time, whose names were *Durant*. The room in which the king slept faces the corn-market. Over the entrance of the house is the inscription of "Love God and honour the King." All this, however, does not contradict the story of Charles having slept at Madresfield on that night which preceded the battle.

niture,

niture collected here by the taste of the present noble mistress, renders it a place well worthy of examination; but the family residing here in general, being quite domesticated when here, and being so near a watering place, are all sufficient reasons why *Madresfield* should not be permitted to be a *show house*. The Editor of these sheets, therefore, feels the more indebted to that politeness which not only granted a view, but also directed his attention to some of the most striking features in a scene of such variety. The grounds are very extensive, but are rather flat, except two small eminences, which, being judiciously planted, have a very good effect from the house; from whence, too, the lowness of its situation does not preclude it from a fine view of the Malvern hills, which are just at that distance that softens all deformities, without removing beauties beyond the reach of examination.

In this immediate neighbourhood too, though in the parish of *Upton*, is

BLACKMORE PARK,

about two miles from the *Wells*, and the seat of Thomas Hornycold, Esq. a family connected by marriage with the Russels of Strensham, the Lygons, and, in short, with all the ancient stocks of the vicinity. The present elegant house is quite a modern building, in a dry and pleasant situation; and though comparatively low with respect to the surrounding scenery, yet possessing extensive prospects on all sides. It would have certainly appeared to greater advantage as a picturesque object, if the profusion of timber in the park had been planted with a little less attention to regularity, particularly as there are some large pieces of water in its immediate vicinity, which afford good objects for the planter of landscape; but lose all their effect when combined with lines laid down by the rule and square.

There are also many other seats, such as Bransell Castle, Eastnor, Castleditch, Hope End, &c. but these being in Herefordshire, we must refer to that county for a delineation of them. WOODFIELD, in this neighbourhood, was part of the lands of the

dissolved monastery of Malvern, as appears by a confirmation of Philip and Mary, of a purchase made by Henry Fegenfeld, of that manor, now preserved in a MS. in the British Museum, (Apschough's Catalogue, 2251, G.) and the same curiously, as, in that reign violent steps had been taken to restore the various church lands to their original purposes.

BIRTS MORTON may also be mentioned here, as it is within the range of a morning's ride. It was long the property of a very ancient family, of Cornish origin, the *Nanfams*; and it is even said, that one of the branch, settled in this county, was instrumental in the first political rise of Cardinal Wolsey, his father having been esquire of the body to Henry VII. and of course about the court.

The manor-house is very ancient, and was moated round; but is now only a memorial of ancient times, the rooms being all wainscoted, and carved with armorial bearings. In the church are many curious monuments of different families of consequence in the county; also one of the late rear-admiral William Caldwell. In the church-yard is a raised monument of the Earl of Bellamout, who died in 1766, and by his own express order was buried here in a deep grave, half filled with stones.

CASTLE MORTON lies between Birts' Morton and Little Malvern, but is in Longdon parish; and the hall, which is near the chapel-yard of Morton, was the foundation of the keep of the ancient castle. Nothing, indeed, is now to be seen; but the "*Mercurius Rusticus*," which was published during the civil wars, tells a curious story of a party of the Parliamentary army, collected from Gloucester, and its neighbourhood, having come here in 1643 to plunder the house of a Mr. Rowland Bartlett, so well beloved in this district for his hospitality, and for his general benevolence and philanthropy, that if these marauders, who amounted to 150, had not taken the opportunity of his neighbours' being at a fair in the vicinity, their force would have been too weak to accomplish their purpose. These rascals carried away a gold watch, and all the money, plate, and linen, they could find;

among

among other things "valuable both for rarity and shew, a cock eagle stone, for which thirty pieces had been offered by a *physician*, and refused;" but such was their dastardly feeling, that they scattered about the store of sweetmeats, not daring to eat them for fear of poison!

We now come to a new central station for observation, having arrived at the pleasing little town of

UPTON,

which has long been a thriving place, though on a small scale; partly owing to its bridge, and partly arising from its having a harbour for the reception of the barges employed in the navigation of the Severn.

This town has been very poetically described by *Cottle*, in his "Malvern," where he says,

"And now I mark where *Upton's* spires arise,
Whilst many stately trees, and many cots,
And villages, o'erspread the country round,
And orchards with their odoriferous breath,
That scent the air, and to the eye present
One sheet of blossoms"—————

Upton suffered much in the civil wars; at which time its bridge, an handsome stone one, and built in 1605, was partly broken down for military purposes, and a battery erected in the churchyard to prevent the Parliament army from crossing the river; in which, however, the defending party were not successful. At that time also its church suffered much, and was at length pulled down in 1756, and replaced by a very handsome modern edifice, not only an ornament to the town itself, but a very pleasing object from many points of view in the vicinity, as the town stands on a cliff over the Severn, and the cupola of the church tower is seen to very great advantage. Though the church was opened in 1758, yet the tower was not completed for sixteen years afterwards; it now contains a good ring of bells, and is decorated with a very handsome clock. It is still, however, a matter of

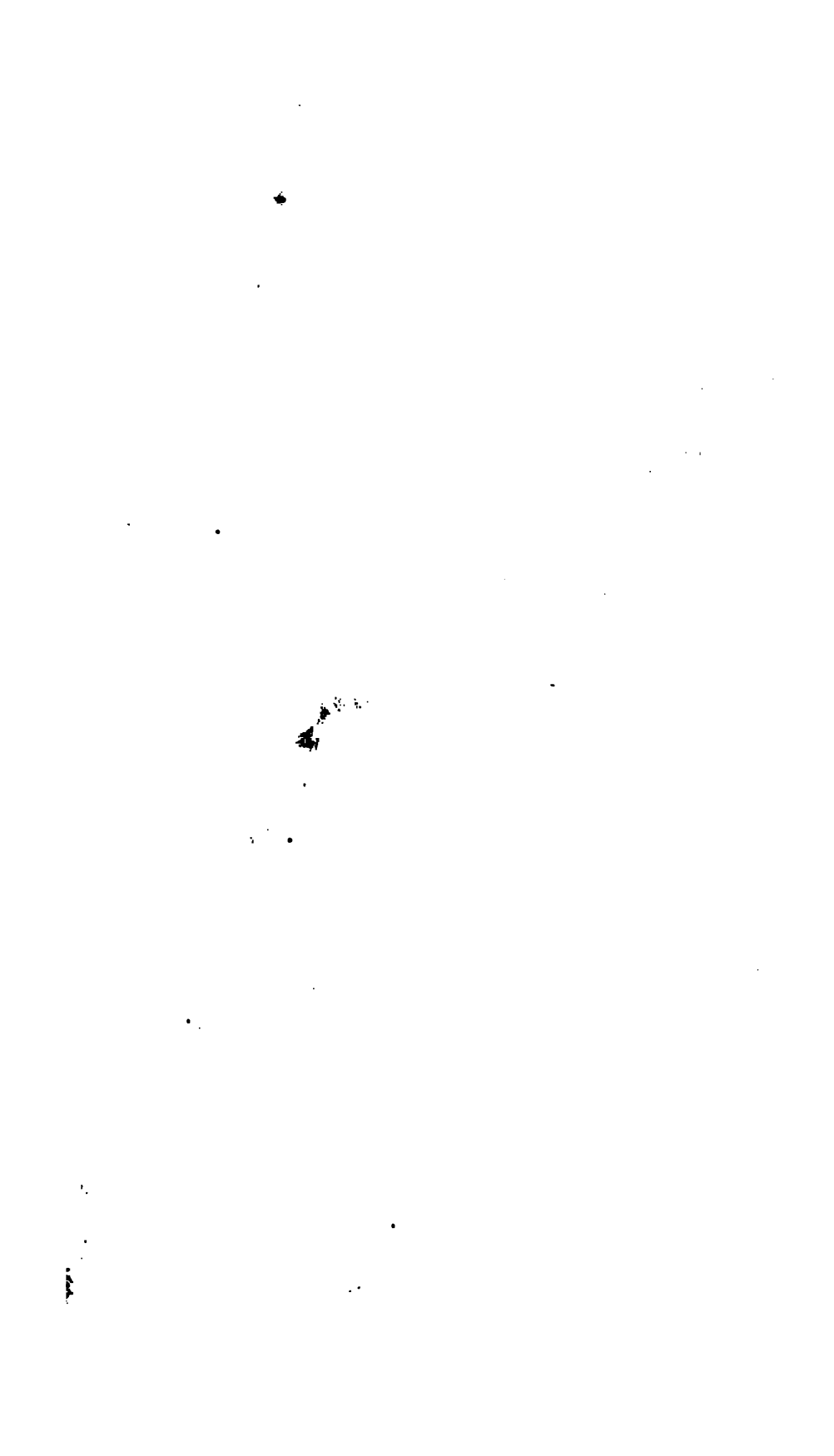
very

extravagances. He mentions, from Hearne, that having entered the University of Cambridge at fifteen years of age, in the three following years, so vehemently was he bent on study, that for those years, he did inviolably keep this order: only to sleep four hours every night; to allow to meat and drink, and some refreshing after, two hours every day, and of the other eighteen hours, all (except the time of being at divine service) was spent in reading. He then went abroad, and after some months spent in the Low Countries, returned home, and brought with him the first astronomer's staff in brass, that was made by *Gemma Frisius*, the two great globes of Gerardus Mercator's making, and the astronomer's ring of brass, as *Gemma Frisius* had newly framed it *.

Armed with these potent instruments, his head began to run wild upon astrology, for the simple truths of astronomy were then unthought of, and he called in the assistance of the occult art to give sufficient effect to his *Lectures*, which, however, were then far inferior to the Phantasmagoria, or Breslaw tricks, of our modern philosophical conjurers; and we are told that in them he did set forth (and it was seen of the University) a Greek comedy of Aristophanes, with the performance of the *Scarabeus*, or great Indian beetle, flying up to Jupiter's palace, with a man and basket of victuals upon his back; whereat was great wondering and many vain reports spread abroad of the means how that was effected. In the College of Trinity he seems to have had great influence; for Hearne says, that by his advice and endeavours, their Christmas magistrate was first named and confirmed an *Emperor*.

On his second visit to the continent, says his biographer, for recreation, he looked into the method of the civil law, and profited therein so much, that in his *Antinomias*, imagined to be in the law, he had good hap to find out (well allowed of) their agreements :

* It is curious to observe, that to understand what is now commonly known to every Tyro in science gave a man, in those days, the reputation of a conjuror !





that notwithstanding the story of the warming-pan, it appears that the *Paenbroker* was a better alchemist than himself. This, however, came to the knowledge of Elizabeth, "whereupon," says he, "her Majesty sent unto me very royally within one hour after forty angels of gold from Sion," a proof that, in this instance at least, he was more successful in raising angels, than he had ever been in raising spirits.

As a *Biblio-maniac*, Mr. Dibdin tells us, that his library consisted of 4000 volumes of MSS. and printed books, then valued at 2000*l.* besides one Greek, two French, and one high Dutch volumes of MSS. valued alone at 533*l.* He also mentions the *magnet* "which was sold out of the library but for five shillings, and for it afterwards (yea piecemeal divided) was more than 20*l.* given in money and value."

Upon the whole, this man seems to have had some knowledge of real philosophy, both in theory and practice, though mixed with the absurdities of his time: nor did his *Biblio-mania* always lead him astray; for it appears that he had been indefatigable in collecting an immense quantity of evidences, both of lands and genealogies, in Ireland and Wales, most of which were embezzled when his property was seized by some merciless creditors; great part of them no doubt destroyed, but some of them perhaps still preserved in our public libraries.

After his death, which happened at Mortlake, near London, at a very advanced age, in the year 1608, *Casaubon* published a work which he called "A true and faithful relation of what passed for many years between Dr. John Dee and some spirits;" and some years afterwards, his wonderful black stone came into the possession of the late Lord Orford; but where it may be now, we are not conjurors enough to guess.

CROOME COURT,

the elegant modern seat and park of the *Earl of Coventry*, lies about four miles from Upton, and near to the village of *Earl's Crome*. The parish is called *Crome D' Abbot*, having formerly

been part of the extensive possessions of Urso d' Abtot, Earl of Worcester: * but came to an ancestor of the present family by purchase in 1563.

It has been well observed of this now charming place, that nature has contributed but little to its beauties; but that the powers of art, and the transcendent skill of Brown, have been blessed with uncommon success. Here wood, water, and ornamental buildings, are dispersed with great taste, and even with profusion; nay, even a semblance of hill and dale has been produced, by dint of labour, directed by judicious design, and that out of an almost undistinguished level. And all this we may say is the work of little more than half a century; and there is now, on what was lately almost a barren heath, an exuberance of timber in full growth, as well as rising plantations, which are dispersed with such taste and judgment as to produce not only picturesque beauty, but even magnificent scenery, where it might by many have been supposed that art was unavailable.

Much of the credit due for this has been given to Brown the landscape gardener, who has certainly done much; and to whose taste, and indeed to his memory, there is a very liberal compliment paid by a monumental inscription in the walks; but the life and soul of all these improvements was the late Earl himself, who planted the slopes, drained the morasses, drew his belts of plantations round lands rendered fertile by his skill and honourable perseverance, and has thus left a praiseworthy memorial of his own abilities, and an example to succeeding generations. In short, as a late surveyor of this county has observed, the whole demesne is now kept in the highest style of neatness, well watered, and better wooded; the soil, indeed, is not rich, being often
moist

* Though Urso left only an heiress married to the ancestor of the Beauchamps, yet the name seems to have remained long in the county, for in the British Museum (Ayscough, 5013, 81,) there is a lease from Walter Debitott of Ridmarley, to Richard Watts, of some lands in that parish, 22d of Henry VIII.; and also a grant of administration to Margaret Debitott, of the will of John Debitott in 1560.

moist gravel or clay ; but being well drained, and aided by other agricultural improvements, such as good roads, the covering an indifferent soil with good turf, and stocking it well with valuable cattle, all these have come in unison with the more elegant branches of landscape gardening, and with all that neatness and picturesque effect from judicious planting for which this place is so distinguished. To examine it more in detail, which it well deserves, we shall take a ramble over the house and grounds.

Ascending a winding road from *Severn Stoke*, which is the best approach, we see on the left, amidst extensive plantations, which are separated by that road from the body of the park, a handsome temple, with a domed roof, that appears a very fine object to the country round, and commands from its windows, on its elevated site, a most extensive prospect, which being a circle of which it forms the centre, has induced the family to give it the very appropriate name of the *Panorama*. To the right the park is seen to great advantage, and the parish church peeping from among lofty woods, and backed by distant hills, is a very striking object. At the bottom of a pretty rapid descent is the park-gate, with handsome lodges; after passing which we see, at a considerable distance, a sheet of water, which, at a very great expense, has been carried on for a mile and a half, though apparently at first with too great regularity. This unfortunate awkwardness, however, is soon got over, as it begins to spread amongst the swells of the Park, and is at intervals chequered with trees and clumps. It must be recollected too, that the expense of its formation was not uselessly expended, as this is the great receptacle of the various drains which have given value to a tract that would have been a waste without them. The road now leads over a very elegant bridge, under which there is not only a passage for the water, but also a perforated grotto that unites both sides of the grounds without the necessity of rising to cross the road. To the right the water begins to extend itself into a fine lake with well wooded banks, and on its left is the house,

Thomas Lord Coventry; a good portrait. *Duchess of Hamilton* and *Lady Coventry*; two ladies, whose beauty and virtue raised them to high rank, and to contemplate whose countenances, now that they are in the silent grave, is in itself a speaking lesson. From this apartment we enter the

DRAWING-ROOM,

in which are two full lengths of *their present Majesties*; a glowing *landscape* from the pencil of Claude Lorraine, or at least a most happy imitation of his manner; *four heads*, exquisite, but of which we could get no account, our fair *Cicerone* having been but that morning promoted to the office from the brush and duster, as a kind of locum tenens to the house-keeper; a *landscape* of the Italian school, composed of the usual changes which have been so often rung, on rocks, castles, ruins, and sheep; this, however, is deserving of examination; an exquisite *Madona*! a whimsical picture of a cabinet of curiosities; excellently drawn, and with the most lively colours, which, however, have nothing of that glare, often so disgusting, but which is here completely destroyed by the effect of each being produced, most judiciously, more by gradation than by contrast; two pictures of *Cleopatra*, the one in all the bloom of health and good spirits, the other suffering under despair, and the bite of the asp! an exquisite piece of *Venus in retirement*, attended by Cupid, and a *Satyr peeping!!* another, evidently its companion, of *Venus with a Satyr bound by Cupids*! In this room there is also a most superb inlaid cabinet, representing many subjects of natural history. Another apartment next to this, is also used as a

DRAWING-ROOM,

and is particularly remarkable for being hung with the finest tapestry now in England. It is the Gobeline manufacture; of crimson ground, with coloured figures and ornaments; and the name of *Boucher* on it as the artist! The

Y 3

LIBRARY

Lloyd's State Worthies; and a handsome eulogium in Clarendon's History of the Rebellion, Vol. I. 36, 37. also 104.

LIBRARY

is plainly, but appropriately, furnished. It contains some antique models. From hence, in the range of apartments, we enter the principal

HALL,

which is elegantly supported by pillars, and has a superb marble floor. This leads to an apartment called the

LONG ROOM,

but which is a very extensive gallery of exquisite proportion, extending along one complete side of the building. It is now generally used as the family morning room, and commands a fine view of the lake and surrounding grounds. The ground of the walls is a deep but bright blue, with niches filled with plaster casts of the most elegant antiques. The rest of the furniture and fitting up is appropriately adapted for its general purpose. Throughout the whole of the house, the ceilings are richly stuccoed; the mirrors remarkable for their size and brilliancy; and the furniture superb.

We now proceed to the GROUNDS, but are first led through the gardens to the various green and hot houses; here, too, we see some superb *magnolias* flourishing in the open air, and also some very fine cedars, which afford a complete shelter from the bleak winds of early spring. The guide now directs our path through an extensive shrubbery, highly worthy the notice of the botanist, and from thence, across a lawn, to an eminence on which stands a temple, or *rotunda*, fitted up as an evening apartment, and commanding not only charming views of the home scenery, but also of the distant and surrounding country. Proceeding round the back of the mansion, we come to an *urn and pedestal*, on which

"To the memory of George William,

Earl of Coventry,

The following lines

Were inscribed

By his successor,

October 25th, 1809.*

Sacred

* The day of the Royal Jubilee; and the lines, we believe, were written by one of the younger ladies of the family.

Sacred to him, the genius of the place
 Who reared these shades, and formed these sweet retreats,
 With ev'ry incense breathing shrub adorn'd,
 And flow'r of fairest hue! His cultur'd taste
 And native fancy bade the scene around
 Rise perfect; and the muse whom much he lov'd
 Still joys to haunt it. Crown'd with length of days
 He liv'd—one wish alone unsated—much
 His loyal heart had cherish'd a fond hope
 To hail this day of Jubilee, and close
 His earthly course in Britain's hour of joy."

From this spot we pursue a winding course, partly through a park like scene, until we reach the *Church*, which stands on a most commanding eminence, looking down not only on the grounds, but also having a most extensive prospect over the country. This is a modern building, but in a chaste Gothic style, having been erected by the late earl when he pulled down the old one near the mansion; all the family monuments, however, together with the bodies, &c. have been removed to the vault and chancel of the present building. A considerable part of the old floor, or pavement, also, has been removed here, and is curious in its construction. There are four monuments in the chancel, of the ancestors of the family, all of which are extremely well executed in black and white marble, with the various figures recumbent, and habited in their official robes. The family vault is beneath the chancel; but its entrance is on the outside of the church. A handsome mural monument has just been erected, in the body of the chancel, to the memory of the late Earl; it consists of an urn of white marble in front of a pyramid, with the family armorial bearings, and the following inscription:

"Juxta hunc locum exuvias mortales deponi voluit Georgius Gulielmus Comes de Coventry.

Ingenio acutus, solers, versatilis; moribus, comis, jucundus, elegans. Antiquam generis nobilitatem accurata rerum et literarum cognitione eximiè illustravit.

Regis Patriæque amantissimus

Y 4

nutriquo

pencil may imitate, but which the pen cannot describe. The path, still winding under the brow of the cliff, brings us to a screen of rockwork, from thence to a spar grotto, with an appropriate inscription; and shortly after a copious spring distils from the rocks, and is collected with much taste, so as to flow through an urn, supported by a water nymph, reclining on the bank. We soon after pass under the road by means of the bridge already noticed, and traverse a delightful and picturesque walk that leads along the banks of the artificial river, but which is so well executed by Brown, as to have every appearance of being the handiwork of nature. A handsome bridge now leads to one of the islands, thickly covered with trees, through which we saunter, until another bridge brings us to a point of view the most exquisite of any in the grounds, but which we cannot attempt to describe; we shortly come to a ferry, where the boat is worked by means of a rope stretched over the water, and with a small purchase at each end, to render oars unnecessary. The tour of the grounds thus completed, we find ourselves at the bridge which leads back again to the high road. We cannot quit this spot, however, without quoting a passage from a recent authority, respecting the praiseworthy exertions of the late earl. "The most skilful drainer I know (says Mr. Darke*) is the *present* (now the late) Earl of Coventry; his part of the county was a morass not half a century back, and is at this present time, (1794) though formerly a moorish, fetid soil, perfectly dry, sound for sheep and other cattle. He has but few under drains. His principal drains are open formed, and turfed to the bottom, so that cattle can graze without any loss of herbage: no water ever stands; and Croome is now noted for its dryness, as well as being well kept; and although the house is surrounded with 1400 acres under his own inspection, you do not see a tree, bush, or thistle, growing upon it undesigned or out of place. It may very justly be stiled a pattern farm to this kingdom, from its well formed plantations, and its judicious and extensive drains." Near this, and on the banks of the

* Vide first Agric. Survey, appendix, 1794.

usual average. In the grounds also is a *Sorbus Aucuparia*,* (or Service tree) called the Quicken tree, or Quicken pear, of a very large size. In Nash's time, about 1780, it was forty-three feet high, eight to the boughs, and its circumference, at that height from the ground, was eight feet ten inches. Its fruit are of the size and shape of a small pear: if laid on straw till they begin to decay, they become soft and eatable. The wood is very hard; and it is remarkable that the tree seldom produces fruit until sixty years old; afterwards it becomes very fruitful: a circumstance which may account for its not having entered into general culture; as few men will plant trees with so little chance of eating their fruit.

It is necessary to mention here, that a report, which we shall notice in another place, of Bishop Bonner being illegitimate, has been contradicted by the late Lord Lechmere, who, in some part of his works, says, that his grandfather was intimately acquainted with the bishop, to whom he was indebted for many attentions paid as a kind of return for favors shewn to that prelate, when in his boyish days, by the Lechmere family; he being the son of parents, honest, but poor, and born at a house in this very parish, called Bonner's place.

The RHYDD is now the residence of Anthony Lechmere, Esq. and the lands round it are employed by him in grazing to a great extent. This seat, standing on a rising ground, is a fine object from both sides of the river; but as yet but little embellishment has been given to it, of which, however, it is highly susceptible; particularly with respect to some fine woods skirting the river, and raising their verdant heads above the steep cliffs which here form the Severn's bank.

HANLEY CASTLE belonged to the Lechmeres but is now in the Hornyolds of Blackmore park. Its once venerable castle stood near the Severn; and must have been a place of some importance, as the residence of the Nevilles, Dukes of Warwick, and afterwards of the Despensers. It is described as having been surrounded

* Nash.

once to speak in the House of Commons the very instant he had taken the usual oaths; upon which a member spoke to order, and observed jocosely, that Mr. Lechmere had no right to the privileges of a sitting member, and therefore could not address the chair, not yet having *taken his seat in the House*.

DRIPSILL, is in this immediate neighbourhood; long the country residence of Sir Charles Trubshaw Withers, whose kindness to the city of Worcester induced him to form those public walks in Sansom fields. The house possesses much beauty, and the grounds are well laid out; and though not designed for shew, it has not been deficient in hospitality.

HAM COURT, now the elegant seat of the Martin family, is close to the town of Upton; and that manor having fallen to the crown by attainder after the death of Richard III. his successor sold it to the family of Bromley, one of whom was elevated to the high dignity of Chancellor. His female heiress, after some generations, carried it by marriage to John Martin, Esq. and that family, with a pious and judicious regard to the memory of their ancestors, have lately built an elegant mansion, consisting of a centre three stories high, with two projecting wings, situated on a rising lawn studded with plantations in an elegant style of improvement, on the banks of the Severn; to which they have given the ancient, but now revived, name of Ham Court. It is of course elegantly furnished, and contains a valuable library, and no less valuable collection of paintings, by the best masters.

PENDOC, which, however, is in Oswaldeslow hundred, would scarcely have claimed our attention were it not for the sake of an anecdote, recorded by *Hemingsus*, a Worcestriian monkish writer already noticed, and highly illustrative of the manners of those early days of superstition. He tells us, that in the reign of William the Conqueror, this village was given to the monastery of Worcester by its possessor, *Norman* by name, together with his son, whom he offered with the land, at the altar, to serve God perpetually in monastic discipline. This land, he adds, had before
been

days, a large straggling pile of confusion; and the church has nothing to boast of, except its situation on an eminence, overlooking the Avon at a short bend of that river, where it appears suddenly, and in a very striking manner. The Russels flourished here upwards of four centuries, and some monuments to their memory are still in existence; but in these, both the sculpture and the brasses have much of the architectural frippery so frequent on the sepulchral memorials of the middle ages of our history. This village, indeed, at present, is principally famous for having been the birth place of the celebrated SAMUEL BUTLER, the almost inimitable author of *Hudibras*. His father was a respectable farmer of this parish, and Samuel was born here about the middle of the seventeenth century. He was educated at Cambridge, but was not matriculated at that university; and having gone through his course of academic studies he returned to his native country, and became clerk to a Mr. Jefferies, an eminent justice of the peace. Tired of this occupation, he soon after entered into the service of Elizabeth, Countess of Kent, but in what capacity is not stated; it could not, however, have been a servile one, as he is said to have enjoyed in it every opportunity of improving himself, both by reading and conversation. He afterwards lived with Sir Samuel Luke, a gentleman of an ancient family in Bedfordshire, and a famous commander under Oliver Cromwell. As it was during his residence in this family that he wrote his admirable poem of *Hudibras*, it has been generally supposed that he meant to ridicule and burlesque the knight; however, it is evident that he was no Parliamentary in principle himself, and very soon after the Restoration he was appointed secretary to Richard, Earl of Carbury, Lord President of Wales, who constituted him Steward of Ludlow Castle. But though he received many promises, and some few civilities, from the Duke of Buckingham, the Earls of Dorset, Clarendon, and others, who admired his genius and courted his company, yet he could never obtain any establishment that might render him independent; and after living in obscurity to the age of 68, he died in want, on the 25th September,

As this village has long enjoyed the benefit of manufacture, it is most likely that improvements in agriculture, and in operative industry, will now go hand in hand. A powerful stream runs through the parish, which has long been employed to turn a paper mill, and corn-mill, and some business has been done in malt-ing; it is said, also, that formerly there was here an iron forge.

The mineralogist will find considerable amusement in this district, in a free stone quarry, which affords great quantities of stalactites and encrustations; and here also there are some petrifying springs. Nash relates a curious story of this quarry, where, he says, in the middle of a free-stone block, about a yard square, which the men were sawing to make a cornice for Lord Coventry's house at Croome, these workmen found a toad of a very large size. These men, whose names he gives, and states to be men of honest veracity, declared to him, that the nest in which it lay was hard and polished, like the inside of an oyster shell; the animal lived for seven or eight hours, and might, perhaps, have lived much longer, if the boys, assisting at the quarry, had not killed it. The stone was cut twenty feet under ground, and the toad was found near the middle of it, not less than twenty-six inches from the nearest external surface of the stone.*

BUSHLEY also is in this neighbourhood, and in Pershore hundred; but is only remarkable for an elegant epitaph in the church, from the pen of the celebrated Burke, displaying the virtues of his friend, William Dowdeswell, Esq. the late owner of the estate, and who sat in many Parliaments, as representative for this county, where, as it has been well said, his patriotic services will long live in the memory of posterity.

"To the memory of William Dowdeswell, representative in Parliament for the county of Worcester, Chancellor of the Exchequer in the years 1765 and 66, and a member of the King's privy council; a senator for twenty years, a minister for one, a

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virtuous

* Plott, in his *Staffordshire*, relates a similar story; and Dr. Richardson mentions such a thing also in a letter in the *Luidii Ichnographica*.

PERSHORE,

Once famed for its abbey, and extensive ecclesiastical establishment, is now not less so for the beauty of its situation, and the fertility of its soil, which render it extremely agreeable in summer; but it was so incommodious in winter, before the present excellent turnpike roads brought the great thoroughfare to the metropolis through the town, as to give rise to a proverbial quiz upon the disposition of its inhabitants at the two opposite seasons. If met in the summer, and the place of their residence was asked, the answer was pert, "Persnore, G—d—n you"; but if in winter, the disheartened clod-pole could only articulate, "Persnore, God help me!" The story, however, has been told of other places, and perhaps with equal truth and justice.

The town stands on the Northern bank of the *Avon*, from which, joined to the modern line of road, it derives its principal advantages; so that of late years it has increased considerably in size and population.

Its name has been said to be derived from the great number of pear trees in its vicinity; which is not improbable, though at the present day there are many parts of Worcestershire more famous for them. If the origin of its name is doubtful, the origin of its existence is not so by any means; for that has been very well explained by Nash, when he observes, that a great abbey generally occasioned a town to be built in its vicinity, and the latter often decayed soon after the dissolution of the former; thus Persnore, though it retained its privileges of fairs, markets, &c. yet went very much to ruin, and was in great poverty till about the middle of the last century: since which time, the beauty of its situation, the fertility of its soil, the convenience of the river *Avon*, and the goodness of its roads, as we have already hinted, have occasioned the accession of many strangers, and it is now an handsome, well built, and well paved, town. To this we must add, that its principal street cannot be excelled, and is but seldom equalled by other country towns, either in its breadth or regularity: it contains also many very respectable, and some handsome, houses.

St. Dunstons St. Paul but afterwards to St. Edm
 in Essex, wherever in Ireland we are told
 under a 'the monastery' reported part of the
 village near Drogheda, south of Winchester.
 which is a fine old seat for the whole of the
 country. The monks' situation one of her a
 and would now be a more valuable p
 Dunstons monastery with the best part of the
 the an earlier name. In the construction
 the monastery a stone wall, there was named
 which the monks had built; the O'Connell says
 the monks' monastery are named parish church
 and parish church and will pay now a day
 monks' monastery, some of our modern abbesses
 and to be sent a fine and kind.

The monks of the same miracles of another n
 and of the monks having usurped the po

The monks of the Monastery of Ireland, Vol. I. 51. In the
 the monks of the Monastery there are several MSS. rolls
 of the monks' monastery.

The monks of the Monastery Charter of Foundation in
 the monks' monastery of Winchester, to Pope Anasta
 the monks' monastery. The monks' monastery in Dunstable's Monastery.

monastery, he died eaten up by vermin; a disease, by the bye, which we should have thought more likely to fall to the lot of the monks themselves, and from which certainly nothing but a *miracle* could have saved them, in those days of filthy slothfulness. This punishment, however, or the report of it, had such an effect upon Oddo, another Mercian duke, that he not only restored the lands, but even made a *vow of celibacy*, that no son of his should ever be guilty of such sacrilege!

Belonging to this abbey, was a large and elegant church, much of which still remains, though diminished in its size, and divested of much of its original splendour; and this is known by the name of *Holy Cross*, having formerly been 250 feet in length, and 120 broad. Almost contiguous to it is the church of *All Saints*, which belongs to the town, and is kept in very neat order, with a good ring of six bells in its small square tower. Of the *Abbey* itself, the site of which occupied two acres, there are but few vestiges; and even of the *ancient* building in the Holy Cross, there is nothing more than the tower, (whose summit has unfortunately been modernized in the repair,) the southern part of the cross, and one of the chapels.

The church and convent, being originally built with wood, were several times destroyed by fire. Once on St. Urban's day, in the year 1223; and again in 1287, when an accidental fire broke out, and not only reduced the abbey to ashes, but also consumed the greatest part of the town.

In ancient times, the principal approach to the abbey was down the *Lice-street*, which took its name from the *corpses* for interment being carried along that street, that being the Saxon term. A small part of the gateway, or entrance on the north side, still is in existence; and near it was the chapel of St. Edburga, the patroness, eighth daughter of King Edward the Elder, about the year 900.

As saints are scarce articles in those modern days, we shall recount a few particulars of this Lady, by which her fair countrywomen may judge of themselves or friends, should any such

In the vicinity of this town, the *Avon* becomes a fine river; and the general landscape, as we approach *Bredon Hill*, combines likewise a highly improved state of cultivation. This view is rendered still more pleasing, (as Mr. Ireland observes,)* by an extensive woody scenery that presents itself on a rising bank of the river; and, indeed, it must be confessed, that there are few spots in this county where the tourist of taste will be more delighted with the home views.

To see the surrounding landscape, however, in its greatest perfection, the stranger should walk to *Aylesborough*, which is within the limits of the parish, and stands upon a hill about a mile north of the town. From this spot, he may direct his view to the southward over the vale of *Evesham* into Gloucestershire; to the north, indeed, his prospect is confined, but pleasingly so, by a range of woodlands, the principal of which is near to *Wadborough*, and is called now "Nash's Plantation," but formerly *Abbot's Wood*. This valuable tract consists of 220 acres, covered with about 30,000 good timber trees, disposed in regular rides and walks, and which were the property of the late venerable Dr. Nash, the historian of this county.

Here particularly, as well as in the circumjacent vicinity of Pershore, the botanical tourist will find great amusement among the indigenous produce of the soil, a few of which we shall enumerate.

Spurge laurel. *Daphne Laureola*. Frequent in woods and hedges. It is a handsome evergreen shrub; but ought, if possible, to be rooted out, as its leaves and berries act both as an emetic and cathartic, and that in a manner both violent and dangerous.

Frog orchis. *Satyrion viride*, which, with the bee orchis, or *ophrys insalutifera*, a most curious flower, is to be found in the meadows and pastures.

Swine's succory. *Hyosiris minima*. This is found in places

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otherwise

* Ireland's Scenery of the Avon.

otherwise the most barren and gravelly, which it covers with a thick verdure.

Crimson grass vetch. *Lathyrus nissolia*; and narrow-leaved vetch, or pease everlasting, *Lathyrus sylvestris*; are found frequently on sunny banks, but by the side of woods.

Meadow cranesbill. *Geranium pratense*. This is frequent in moist meadows, and amongst bushes in rough grounds; and bearing a large blue flower, might, if cultivated in gardens, become very ornamental.

Deptford pink. *Dianthus armorica*. In clayey soils, generally upon banks under hedges.

Green leaved hound's tongue. *Cynoglossum officinale*. This has leaves of a fine vivid green; and it is not hoary or fetid like the common species of the plant.

Spiked brome grass. *Bromus pinnatus*; may be found abundantly in every rough pasture, and particularly in clayey soils.

Stinking iris, or Gladwyn. *Iris fœtidissima*; is very common and plentiful; and may always be found not only in woods and thickets, but also by the way sides.

WICTON, near Wych, is merely mentioned here as being in the neighbourhood of Pershore. Tanner tells us, that about the latter end of the reign of Henry I. or the beginning of King Stephen, Peter de Corbizon, alias Studley, founded a priory of canons of the order of St. Augustine, in the church of St. Peter in this parish. It was afterwards, however, removed to Studley, in Warwickshire; and we believe that no traces of any ecclesiastical buildings now remain, with the exception of the parish church.

COMBERTON lies to the southward of Pershore, towards the Bredon hills; and we cannot describe it better than in the words of a recent picturesque writer, who says, that from hence the Malvern hills, in a grey sombre tint, form a pleasing back ground to a rich thicket of oaks that border the southern bank of the Avon near to it. This scenery receives no small pictorial aid from the adjoining lock and mill that take their name from the village of *Nafford*, which is bounded by *Eckington*, where a
hand-

handsome bridge of six irregular arches is thrown across the river. This bridge is built of the reddish stone, so general in this part of the county, and is on the road from Pershore to Tewkesbury.

BREDON village stands a short distance from Eckington, on the very verge of the county. It is a neat thriving place, and from being in the vicinity of Tewkesbury, a place long celebrated for its stocking manufactory, it partakes of the benefits of its situation; and there are of course many frames employed here, and in the surrounding hamlets. Its name is derived from its site, at the foot or end of a hill; *Braidd* signifying "extremity," and *dun*, "a hill." It has a neat, but antique church, whose porch and west end are evidently of Saxon architecture; and the rectory-house, an ancient mansion, is pleasantly situated on an eminence on the bank of the Avon; and has been thought deserving of a plate in Nash's Survey. The church is dedicated to St. Peter; and has many monuments, particularly that of the famous Bishop Prideaux, already mentioned. Here also was a monastery, of which Leland says, that Eanwolfus, king of Mercia, was the first founder; and Offa, his nephew, and also king, a benefactor to it; but Tanner asserts, that Ethelbald, king of Mercia, before the year 716 gave this town to his kinsman Eanulph, (who was grandfather to king Offa,) with intent that he should found a monastery here. It existed under an abbot of its own until after the year 841; but before the Conquest it became part of the possessions of the bishopric of Worcester.*

In this parish are the ruins of a chapel called Mitton; and on that part of the hills above it, there are remains of an ancient camp, or double entrenchment, whose origin is uncertain.

Wollas Hall must not be omitted here, particularly as it presents a good picture of ancient domestic arrangements. It stands on the north-side of Bredon-hill, at about one-third of the ascent
from

* Those who wish to enquire more minutely into this subject, may consult Heming ex Domesday, p. 302, &c.; and in the Cottonian Coll. NERO. E. I. 387. where are the charters granted by Bernulph, Offa, Kenred, and other Mercian kings.

All the offices and outbuildings of this ancient mansion are convenient, and suitable to its appearance; and the whole form a most venerable groupe. In the kitchen there is the singular convenience of having the spit turned by a small stream of water, which rises under the brow of a hill close to the house.

From this house and grounds the vale of Evesham is seen to peculiar advantage; and the view extends from Strensham, round by Upton, and including the abbey and town of Pershore, with all the animation of the commercial intercourse on the Avon; trees, verdant meadows, and cheerful villas, interspersed with the white sails of the river craft, and the spires of sequestered villages. "On ascending to the top of the hill, above the house, the view is yet more majestic, though perhaps less sweet and enchanting. From a small knoll on the top, the whole horizon is taken in; and hence the visitor, who has a taste for the charms of nature, may enjoy a prospect which is not often equalled. Towards the east, Broadway-hill, with its strait footpath four times crossing the winding carriage way down into the vale; Lord Coventry's tower, and the woods beneath it; then turning with the sun, the Gloucestershire hills, with the town of Cheltenham, snugly and warmly embayed by its neighbouring hills; next Gloucester cathedral; Tewkesbury, with the junction of the Severn and Avon on its race-ground; May-hill, the Black mountain in South Wales; then the Malvern hills a little foreshortened, the abbey of Great Malvern, the Shropshire hills; then Worcester, Cracombe-hill, and Evesham, (with its finely preserved tower and beautiful church in ruins,) finish the circle."* The writer of the preceding quotation, who seems to have made a very elaborate research into the antiquities of this spot, further observes, that there are many curiosities near the house; and that it is indeed all classic ground. The first object, in ascending from the mansion, is the foundation of a chapel, which was dedicated to St. Catharine of the Rock, and said to have been founded by

* For this very accurate description, we are indebted to a letter from Mr. James Pugh, in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1811.

already mentioned, with the three vales spread like a map below; whilst Malvern, Abberley, and Whitley hills recede into the purple distance. Here is much amusement for the botanist; and we shall take leave to enumerate some of the varieties.

Mushrooms, in large tufts, some of which are from eight to ten inches in diameter, are often found here.

Hemlock water dropwort. *Oenanthe croceta*. This flowers in July, and is frequent not only by the sides of rivulets, but also in the ditches round the foot of Bredon. From its striking resemblance to celery, and being at the same time highly deleterious, it has sometimes given rise to fatal mistakes.

Land dropwort, *Spirea filipendula*, is also found here.

Striated wood vetch, *Vicia sylvatica*, is found in thickets on the northern side.

Tufted horse-shoe vetch, *Hippocrepis cremosa*, is more frequently found on the southern declivity.

Purple astragal, or mountain milk vetch, *Astragalus arena-rius*, is not unfrequent.

Lesser field scabious, *Scabiosa columbaria*.

Female pimpernel, *Anagallis arvensis*.

Common water dropwort, *Oenanthe pimpinelloides*, a species, with burnet saxifrage leaves, is not unfrequent by the sides of rills, &c.

Grass of Parnassus, *Parnassia palustris*, may be found on the southern limits, in boggy meadows.

Herb Paris, herb true love, or one berry, *Paris quadrifolia*, may be traced in the woods and thickets on each side of the hill.

Mountain St. John's wort, *Hypericum montanum*, is to be found upon banks under hedges, and by wood sides.

Woolly headed thistle, *Carduus eriophorus*, is the most elegant specimen of this whole genus, and is not unfrequent.

Elecampane, *Inula Helenium*, is perhaps the most useful of any we have yet named, as its root has long been considered beneficial in disorders of the lungs. It is here found in great abundance on the various declivities of the hill.

INKBERROW PARISH, on the eastern border of the county, is extensive. It contains *Knighton Park*, the property of the Earl of Abergavenny; and here also are the ruins of the abbey of *Cokehill*, a small religious foundation for a prioress and six white nuns, founded in 1260, by Isabella Countess of Warwick, who, in her vidity, also took the veil here. It stands so close upon the borders of Warwickshire, as to be only one mile from Alcester. The nunnery was never a magnificent building; and the pious countess, if she subsisted with the others upon its revenues alone, must have had her full share of mortification and fasting; for, even at the Dissolution, its revenues amounted to no more than 35l. 9s. 3d.

What little remains is a melancholy memorial of past times; it is, indeed, no more than part of the walls of a small chapel, which, under an arch on the south side, *once* contained the tomb of the foundress; to which we must add some traces of the inhabited part of the nunnery, at the distance of about forty yards from the chapel, but now overgrown with nettles, where so many *Lilies*, during ages of superstition, had bloomed and faded!

An ancient parish church, falling fast to decay, promises the same fate to a long list of monuments of the Savages, Egiokes, Woolmers, &c. Many pious benefactions have been given to the church, and still remain; these are distributed to the poor, in bread, on certain appointed festivals.

UPTON SNODSBURY, between this and Worcester, is the parish in which the atrocious murder was committed about a century ago on an ancient lady, Mrs. Palmer, and her servant maid, by her own son, and his brother-in-law, Symonds, a descendant of Judge Symonds, at whose house Oliver Cromwell slept the night before the battle of Worcester. These villains had a gang of accomplices; and *they*, the leaders, were executed: from which circumstance that estate, which now supports a charity school in Worcester, came to that pious bishop, who, affected by these concomitant circumstances, gave up all pecuniary advantages resulting from it, and then dedicated it to charitable purposes.

We

the antique churches, and the ivied walls of its once flourishing abbey. The relics of ancient magnificence indeed, as Mr. Tindal observes,* are but few, but are on that very account more precious: and enough still remains to shew to the passing stranger, whilst he treads the hallowed ground, that here once existed edifices of more than common elegance, as well as magnitude,

"Where through the long drawn aisle, and fretted vault,
The pealing anthem swelled the note of praise."

Of the spacious abbey which once reared its lofty pinnacles to heaven upon this Avon encircled hill, we are told by Leland, that *St. Egwin*, Bishop of the Wiccii, was the founder; in which pious work he was aided by *Ethelred* and *Kenred*, Kings of Mercia. Before this prelate, however, was elevated to the pall, or was even fully qualified to be a saint, it appears that he had been playing some juvenile tricks, the remembrance of which hung heavy on his conscience. In order, therefore, to ascertain clearly when his sins were forgiven, he fastened his legs together with iron fetters, and threw the key of their lock into the Avon, giving at the same time public notice, that he should not consider his sins as pardoned until these fetters should be unlocked by a miracle from heaven, or by their proper key being miraculously restored to him. William of Malmesbury, who relates this wonderful story, does not inform us whether the blacksmiths of that time could make *two* keys to the same lock; however, as we have related, *one* key was thrown into the Avon. In this heavenly attire he went to Rome; and after a pleasant journey, whilst he was crossing the channel on his return, a large fish leaped on board of the vessel, which the seamen immediately secured. On opening his stomach, the *very key* was found belonging to the lock which fastened his fetters; and he thus received full assurance of the remission of his sins. John of Tinmouth relates the story in a different manner,† for he states that on the arrival

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of

* Tindal's *Evesham*† *Golden Legend*. Cap. 203.

of Egwin at Rome, the bells all rang of their own accord, and his servant buying a fish in the market, *then and there* found the key, "the Roman Tyber having thus restored what the English Avon had swallowed up." We can easily conceive, indeed, that the fish might have *swallowed a key* on his way home from the market, or even *after his arrival* at the saints' lodgings; perhaps however, after all, the most miraculous part of the business is the *swallowing of the story*.

After having thus put the Deity to the trouble of working a miracle, St. Egwin came home, and we are told by the unknown author of an old legend of his life, that there was a place in the territory of the *Wiceii*, quite uncultivated, over-run with brambles, and clouded with fogs. This place, called by the *moderns* in the days of the writer, *Eovesham*, was then called *Hetheholme*. The saint having taken a strange fancy to this place, begged it from Ethelred King of the Mercians; and in those days of saints and sinners, it was only "ask and have." Having thus got full powers over this forest, he appointed four swine-herds to look after the "pigs of the servants of God." One of these swine-herds, Eoves by name, having gone too far into the wood, lost one of his pigs, which hid itself in the thickets, and brought forth a miraculous litter. This unlucky swine-herd not having the power of working miracles, took perhaps the wisest method of finding his pig, by going to look for it; but soon found he had got the wrong sow by the ear, for instead of his pig, he stumbled upon a *virgin* accompanied by two others, *virgins* also as far as he knew, all shining as bright as the sun, holding in their hands a beautiful book, and dancing.

Eoves grew pale with fear: but why he was terrified at the sight of *three virgins*, unless they were the *first* he had seen, we cannot understand; however, he found his way home to his master, who was so pleased at hearing of the *virgins*, that he did not say a word about the pig, but went to look after them himself, and had the good fortune to see them whilst he was at his prayers. Whether the saint was terrified or not, we are not told; but his

biographer, with a kind of *saint-like obscurity*, proceeds to say that Egwin, "amidst various straights and temptations," vowed, that if his desires should prosper, he would there build a church. This he accordingly did, and lived to see it completed, and in a flourishing state.

Thus far the legend; and it further appears that Egwin having dedicated his church to the Virgin Mary, he, after the Conquest, was often joined in co-partnership with her in the dedication style of the monastery, which, as usual, accompanied the church.

It seems, indeed, that one of the greatest miracles attendant upon this saint, either alive or dead, was that of Algytha, a matron lady, having given to this monastery her lands of *Suella*, that she might obtain part of his relics from the abbot! a kind of bargain, however, in which she is not likely to be imitated by modern matrons, who no doubt would consider it as a *dead loss*.

From Brown Willis's view of the mitred abbeys, it appears that this monastery and church at one time possessed twenty-two towns, and maintained seventy-five religious persons, and sixty-five servants; and its revenues at the dissolution amounted to upwards of 1200*l.* sterling; a large sum of money at that time.*

There have been many opinions, and many doubts, respecting the privileges of these *mitred abbies*, and their origin; it is, however, pretty clearly settled by *Cowell*, that their abbots were not called to Parliament because they were entitled to wear the mitre, but only because they held their temporals from the crown. This opinion is confirmed by *Collier*, who says† that they held of the king *in capite per baroniam*, each endowment being at least an entire barony, which consisted of thirteen knights fees, and thereby they were advanced to the state and dignity of spiritual lords.

To give a detailed history of this abbey and town, or even a dry list of the abbots, would far exceed our possible limits; we

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must

* Vide Leland. Collect. Vol. VI. p. 158. et seq.

† Eccl. Hist. Vol. II. p. 164.

ceeded to Kenilworth, where he defeated the younger Montfort, whose father, Simon, Earl of Leicester, then lay at Evesham with the king a prisoner, and at the head of the baronial army. Having taken fifteen of their standards, he advanced them in the front of his army, and made his appearance on the heights above Evesham early on the 4th of August 1265, leading the van himself, giving the centre to the Earl of Gloucester, and the rear to Roger Mortimer: he then hastened to take possession of the brow of the hill, with Offenham and the Avon at some distance on his right, a gentle declivity into the vale on his left, the rising hill on the Warwick road in his front, looking down upon the town, the body of his army on the flat at the summit, and his rear extending perhaps as far as the turnpike near which is the "Battle Well."

Simon Montfort was still in the abbey, and his look-out having seen the banners in the van, he was at first induced to suppose it was his son returning from Kenilworth with troops to his assistance.

It may be necessary to remark here that the Battleground, could not have been in the scene of action though so near it; it is now a mere puddle at the bottom of an orchard, and rather at the bottom of a declivity which was on the right wing of Edward's army; and though the troops may have filled their canteens there previous to the action, yet it is not likely that any part of the action itself could have taken place there, unless we suppose that Edward's van and centre had both been obliged to give way in the early part of the day, and to fall upon their reserve. For Montfort marching out of the town about noon to give him battle, it is not likely that Edward would willingly have retired so far from the brow of the hill, and thus have given up the 'vantage ground.

Before the battle, Leicester seems to have lost all courage and confidence, exclaiming, "may God receive our souls, our bodies are in the hands of our enemies!" he took, however, the precaution to place the captive Henry in his own armour, or at least in armour with similar heraldic bearings, in the van of his army,

before, after a careful examination of the spot, this does not seem likely; for it is impossible the vanquished army could have fallen back upon that in their retreat, unless that Edward's army, as before noticed, had deserted their commanding position on the brow of the hill. This bloody contest lasted seven hours, from two in the afternoon until nine at night; part of which time, however, was taken up with the pursuit and slaughter. About 3000 were slain; amongst whom were many nobles; and Guy de Baliol, a foreigner, or more probably a Scotchman, was so mangled by wounds that it was recorded he was buried in his armour, therefore most likely to be the person dug up a few years ago, as we shall notice in another place. Bones have since been dug up at Offenham, at a place called Dead Men's Ait; but Mr. Tindal judiciously supposes from its situation, that this may perhaps have only been the place of interment, and not actually the spot where so many fell.

Evesham seems, after this, to have suffered but little in the various commotions, until the reign of Henry VIII. at which time CLEMENT Lychfield was abbot. He was originally a monk of the order of St. Benedict; but becoming abbot of this place, he continued here until the dissolution of religious houses, with a resolution not to surrender the abbey for profane uses. At length, however, by the tricks of Thomas Cromwell, then Secretary of State to King Henry VIII. he was persuaded to resign his pastoral staff to a young monk of the name of Philip Hawford, alias Ballard; but he soon found out the deception, for the monastery was immediately afterwards resigned into the hands of the commissioners, and Hawford had not only a considerable pension allowed him, but was, in 1553, made Dean of Worcester, to effect which the very respectable dean, John Barlow, M. A. and who had held that office for eleven years, was dismissed without compensation. As for Lychfield himself, who was universally allowed by all parties to have been a most pious and zealous man, he was left to linger in obscurity, and to witness the partial destruction of that abbey on which he had expended such large sums, both

the *Horreum* of Worcestershire, it is soe plentiful of corn. It lyest from the ripe of Avon to the rootes of Cotswould hills.

From this period Evesham witnessed its magnificent abbey sink into silent decay, or viewed its once sacred walls totter under the sacrilegious hands of more active destruction. We find it, however, but little noticed in history, until the civil wars, when from its situation, so easily capable of defence, its possession became an object to the contending parties. In 1644, on the 26th of May, it was taken by Massey, at the head of the Parliamentary army, with the loss of only twenty men killed, and some wounded; at which time its small garrison of only three hundred men, was commanded by Colonel Legge, ancestor of the present noble family of Dartmouth. It appears from Clarendon, that the inhabitants of Evesham were at that time favourable to the new order of things; and he tells us, that Charles hearing that *Waller* remained still in his old quarters near Worcester, he marched very fast to Evesham; nor would he stay: but gave orders for the horse and foot, without delay, to march through it, after he had provided for the breaking down the bridge, and made the inhabitants of the town pay 200*l.* for their alacrity in the reception of *Waller*; and likewise compelled them to deliver a thousand pairs of shoes for the use of the soldiers, which, without any long pause, was submitted to and performed.

Having thus taken a brief view of the history, we shall slightly sketch the town itself.

We are told that the *Abbey Church* was a magnificent building, of more than ordinary length: and on its south side were cloisters, with a spacious and curious walk communicating with the church of St. Lawrence. Both the church and cloisters were of the most superb Gothic workmanship, and had no less than 164 marble pillars; whilst the church contained 15 altars, besides the high altar, where devotees might present their prayers, and other more valuable gifts, to the various saints presiding over them.

The extent of the abbey and its offices must have been very great,

question of very little importance; but from even a slight inspection of the tower itself, it is evident that it must have been built in or near his time, as the roof over the gate-way is a wooden one, and quite flat, without any signs of ever having had the spandrilled arches, which were always in use, a very short time previous to the dissolution.

Above the dial, on its western front, are placed two wooden figures, representing men in armour. Of these, Grose remarks, that their employment was, some years since, to announce the fleeting minutes to unheeding mortals, by striking with their spears the quarters of the hour, on two bells hanging above them underneath a pediment; but time, he adds, was no less impartial to these his devoted servants, than to those more inattentive to his progress; for art failed in her assistance, and they now rest from their labour.

But perhaps the *ancient gate-way* to the abbey, if not the most magnificent, is at least the most curious, part of its remains. This has been so accurately, and so elaborately, described by Mr. Green, in a letter to Mr. Grose, that we shall avail ourselves of its assistance, particularly as from the great care taken of it by the Philips's family, in whose garden wall it stands, it is still in the same state of preservation, and likely to remain so for ages. He observes, that it is an elliptical arch, and seventeen feet high from the ground to the key-stone; but then it is evident that the bottom part of it is much filled up by the rubbish of the ruins that formerly surrounded it. Indeed, it is supposed that the immense rising ground between the arch and the river is entirely formed of the ruins of the abbey and church; and it has several times been proposed to clear them away, not only for antiquarian purposes, but under the idea that the marble and other stones would amply repay the expense of labour.

The arch itself, which is a *retiring* one, is divided by three sets of mouldings into two ranges of niches, filled with carved figures, eight in each range. The outer row consists of sitting figures, which seem to have been intended for either abbots or
bishops,

cay, for what reason we have not been able to develope, and it now forms an august ruin with its elegant clusters of Gothic pillars, its pointed arches and solemn vaults beneath them, begirt with the weeds of desolation, and shaded by tufts of long grass nodding to the blast.

Here, exclaims a late energetic tourist, if here has been the resort of the monks, how grand must have been the deep-toned organs swell, the loud anthem of an hundred voices, rolling through these roofs, and echoed by the surrounding hallowed walls! What devotion would not rise upon enthusiastic wings, when it heard the toll of a vesper-bell thrown with mournful sound through a dead calm of air like this; or perhaps filling up the intervals of the howling blasts of winter!

Even now, when all these heaven inspiring sounds have ceased, even now does memory recur to them, and fancy peoples the gloom with all its former inhabitants; for every footstep treads where souls, disgusted with the world, retired from its busy turmoils!

Next to this is the present parish church, a venerable building, and kept in good repair, with a few monuments, but nothing particularly deserving description.

Mr. Tindale is of opinion, that the ancient pavement of the once magnificent abbey church, lies nearly entire between the arch and Miss Philip's residence; much light he adds might certainly be obtained by a thorough investigation of the premises by the spade, and probably many valuable articles discovered. At present this spot, however, forms a very elegant garden, which doubtless is an insuperable objection with the fair proprietor, to its being disturbed.

It is impossible, concludes this very accurate local historian, to walk in this garden, which to a native antiquary must seem almost classic ground, without a variety of emotions congenial to the spot: when we reflect, that underneath repose the bones of the founder, venerable from intrinsic worth, of a numerous body of

†

saints

Evesham may be said to have a considerable share of business. Much of this arises from its extensive gardens, in the produce of which ten thousand pounds are supposed to be turned annually; their fruit and vegetables being sent as far as Bath, and even into Yorkshire. This branch of trade is of great importance to general industry, and the employment of the poor women and children is chiefly with the gardeners, of whom there are great numbers, occupying perhaps one thousand acres in the neighbourhood.

A trifling manufacture of knit-caps and stockings has also existed here for many years; and Evesham is famous, throughout its vicinity, for the manufacture of drills and other agricultural implements, of which there are two manufactories within the place.

There are several mills which do considerable business, particularly an oil mill, which is constructed upon a very curious plan, and is well worthy of examination. In Tindal's History of this place, there is a story of some misguided mortal, a man of the lower class, having entered this mill, and seeming to observe its operations with much curiosity, and silent attention. The large pendant, upright beams, or hammers, that by repeated strokes on the wedges on which they fall, serve to press the oil from the seed, appeared most of all the machinery to excite his wonder and approbation. After looking on for some time, he seized a moment, when the attention of the workman nearest him was otherwise occupied, and suddenly drawing a sharp axe from under his clothes, at the instant when one of these beams was suspended to strike, he laid his hand across the wedge, and holding the axe over it, the beam with one blow severed it from his arm at the wrist. He had with most astonishing precaution, furnished himself with a dressing for the stump, and hastening away to a medical gentleman in the town, desired him coolly to apply it. The Editor of these sheets made particular enquiry into this story, which is correct in all parts; and the very spot where it happened was pointed out to him. It is supposed that some religious

latter position we shall not quarrel, as it thereby leaves to Evesham the honour of having, at least, produced one conjurer.

William Hopkins, Prebendary of Worcester, was born at Evesham, August 28, 1647. His father was a clergyman, and his grandfather a gentleman of rank and fortune in Bewdley, for which town he was chosen member of Parliament, but died before he took his seat. At the early age of thirteen he was sent to Trinity College, Oxford; and at twenty-four he went chaplain to Mr. Henry Coventry, then appointed ambassador to the court of Sweden. It is supposed, that on this embassy he had an opportunity of acquiring great proficiency in the Saxon language, which gave him great advantages as an investigator of early English history.

In addition to his skill in the Northern and modern languages, he also possessed a classical knowledge of the Latin, Greek, Hebrew, and Oriental tongues; and not only assisted Dr. Hicks in his Septentrional Grammar, and Bishop Gibson the continuator of Camden, but was also the author of several learned, though anonymous tracts. In antiquarian knowledge, both respecting his own cathedral, and that of the English church in general, he was very erudite; yet he seems to have had but an indifferent opinion of the Abingdon MSS. for in a letter of his, in the Bodleian Library, and of which Dr. Nash has presented an extract, he says, "he is much obliged to Mr. Nicholson for his good opinion of him, that he had offered to assist any one in the publishing Abingdon's MSS. that he was sure, by what he had seen, there were great defects and errors in them; that Mr. Abingdon never had access to the Cottonian Library, that he was no Saxonist, and had taken many things upon trust: that his style was ill, and his way of writing so tedious, that it was necessary to write the book anew, in great part, to fit it for the press."

Dr. Hopkins died in 1700. His first lady was Miss Averill Martin, by whom he had three children, all of whom died young. He married to his second, Mrs. Elizabeth Whitehorne, of Tewkes-

excommunicate Beauchamp; and having soon after got possession of the castle, he pulled it down, and consecrated its site for a burying ground, and it is, we believe, the present one.

Here is now an ancient *church*, but without any thing very curious; it has a chapel on the north side, which was pointed out by Mr. Deacle, a benevolent inhabitant of this place, as proper to be fitted up as a school house, for the purposes mentioned in his will. Rambling through the cemetery, we noticed the following humble effort of a rural muse:

" I for my wife and children did provide,
Until I heard the noise of fire cried ;
At which my God was pleased to end my life,
Although a loss to my children and my wife !"

The *free-school*, instead of being in the church yard, has been very judiciously removed, by the trustees, to a convenient building which they have erected in the principal street, and which forms an ornament to the place, being, indeed the only thing that has the appearance of a [public building. It educates and clothes, in the style of Christ's Hospital, thirty of the poorest boys of the parish; and we believe ourselves correct in repeating the opinion of Dr. Nash, that this is certainly a noble and useful charity, and has not, except in some few instances, had the ill fate of being perverted from its original intent. The

CORPORATION

of Evesham has Bengeworth united with it, constituting it one borough; and this it is said was done at the instance of Henry, Prince of Wales, son of James I. in the third year of his reign, as Dr. Nash states, from the authority of some verses at the head of the charter.

Princeps

" Mi pater, hoc primum pro Cambria, da mihi votum."

Rex

" Seis me, nati, nihil posse negare tibi."

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It consists of a mayor, high steward, recorder, chamberlain, seven aldermen, of whom four with the mayor are Justices of the Peace, and of oyer and terminer, and gaol delivery for all offences within their jurisdiction, except High Treason. There are also twelve capital burgesses, called assistants; and the mayor is almoner and clerk of the market, and possesses all deadlands, the goods of felons and toll.

Besides these, there are 620 common burgesses, with whom, along with the corporation, rests the right of voting. The Rushout family has long possessed much personal influence. In 1780, Rushout and Rous were the representatives. At the present time, William Manning Esq. and Sir Manasseh Lopez. At the election in 1807, the state of the poll was, for Manning, 424; Lopez, 334; and for Howorth, the unsuccessful candidate, 320.

HAMPTON is a small village, about one mile from Evesham, and is delightful situated on an eminence, embosomed within a rich thicket of oaks, and commanding a most extensive prospect of that luxuriant vale in which it stands.

OFFENHAM, already mentioned in the account of the battle, lies about one mile and a half higher up the river than Evesham, and takes its name from King Offa, who formerly resided here; but being given to the abbots of the monastery, it became their favourite residence, and some remains of the boundary wall of their mansion are still in existence. Nothing is now to be seen of the bridge; but from the spot which still retains the name, there is a most enchanting prospect of the immediate vale of Avon, of Evesham and its august tower, the Dumbleton hills, &c.

Nearly in a line with this spot, on the north side of the village, there is a large stone, almost overgrown with ivy: it has no inscription remaining, but it has been supposed to be a memorial set up in the rudest times.

Three villages of the name of **LITTLETON**, north, south, and middle, deserve mention here, as giving the family appellation to the present noble family at Hagley. The branch of Frankley were possessed of lands here at a very early date, but Sir John

Littleton

Littleton sold them in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. South Littleton now belongs to the Earl of Coventry, the other two to Lord Northwic. In North Littleton an inclosure is now taking place upon a very liberal scale; the public roads are forming forty feet wide, and the private ones of half that breadth, which will tend very much to improve this part of the country, by increasing the facilities of communication.

CLEEVE PRIOR is a beautiful village, on an eminence on the southern bank of Avon, and derives its name from the range of cliffs in its vicinity. The scenery around is extremely picturesque; for here the river winds sweetly round the foot of the cliffs, whilst Cleeve mill and lock become, in combination, not only useful but beautiful objects, and are well contrasted by the high, rocky, back ground.

The scenery near *Harvington*, descending the river on its northern bank, is bounded on the south by the Littleton hills; behind which *Bredon* forms a beautiful undulating line, which, receding in due gradation, happily blends itself with the aerial distance.*

Some of the people lately employed in the quarries at Cleeve Prior, discovered two pots of coins at some distance under ground, they had dug through sixteen inches of soil, four of limestone, and eighteen of clay, before they found them. The coins consist principally of specimens of Gratian, Valentinian, Theodosius, &c. they are of both gold and silver; and, which may be considered as more remarkable, there are several counterfeits of the gold coins among them.

Crossing the peninsula formed by the winding of the Avon, we come to the village of CROPTHORNE, which presents to the picturesque tourist, a most noble and interesting scene. Here, as Mr. Ireland observes, the varying and capricious hand of gardening has not interfered, and nature remains in that primitive state of simplicity, that constitutes at once the sublime and beautiful of English landscape. In the church under the communion

one for an ancestor of the present Earl of Coventry, with a very flattering inscription; and on the south side of the pedestal, "this tomb was carried to the church of Crome D'Abtot, there to be erected; but the Earl of Coventry denied it to be set up: the countess dowager, at whose charge it was made, being then wife to Thomas Savage, Esq. it was by his order brought to this place 1700."

As Bishop Bonner has been said to have been born here, we shall insert an anecdote from Fuller respecting him, in addition to what has been said under the article of *Hanley*, particularly as he asserts that Bonner was actually the son of a priest, in Cheshire, of the name of Savage, his mother being married *before his birth*, to a poor man of her own rank in life. Being restored to his bishopric on the accession of Mary, he caused the death of twice as many martyrs as all the bishops in England besides: which gave occasion for some verses to be made upon him, as if *Nobody* were speaking:

"All call thee cruel, and the sponge of blood,
But Bonner, *I say*, thou art mild and good."

Leaving Evesham, by the London road, pass through WICKHAMFORD, a cheerful bustling village, after which we come to BROADWAY, a long and straggling, but very curious place, being built entirely of stone, which gives every house an air of the most pleasing antiquity. This place, properly speaking, is called *Broadway Street*, the church stands at some distance to the right, and once contained some painted glass, and some monuments of the *Sheldons*, but these are all in a shattered and dilapidated state. The whole parish bears an air of antiquity, which, to those fond of looking back to ancient times, has a very curious and pleasing effect, particularly as this place, though seemingly unindebted to modern improvement, has yet an air of plenty and comfort, arising from its situation in a good corn district. Clarendon tells us, that after Charles's retreat from Eve-

ther on, upon the road-side, is the *Fish Public-house*; a watering-place for travellers over this dreary range, and which is not only extremely useful but is also an ornament to the scenery, being built in imitation of the antique style. The view from this spot over the vale of Evesham cannot but produce sentiments of rapture in any breast not totally devoid of feeling; the richest verdure and cultivation are disposed at the feet of the spectator, whilst the distant hills fading into every retiring shade of purple seem to carry the sight almost into infinite space.

We now enter the parish of BLOCKLEY, a detached part of the county. The town itself lies to the left of the London road; and the view from this point into Gloucester and Warwickshires is extremely pleasing, looking down upon the rich vale in which Campden is situated. The hills of this parish abound in stone-quarries, which are much used not only for building but also for dry walling for which purpose they are very well adapted, as no hedges are to be met with on these hills, so that a stranger might almost fancy himself in Derbyshire. The town of *Blockley* has several corn and silk mills, which are very beneficial in occupying the industry of the town and vicinity; the comfort arising from which is evident on all sides. Much credit is due to the parishioners for the care and attention shewn to the Church; in which, however, at different periods, they have been much assisted by the liberality of the *Rushout* family, now elevated to the peerage. The foundation of this church is very ancient; for a charter of Burhred, King of Mercia, in 855, mentions a monastery here, which Hemingus says was afterwards given to the Bishopric of Worcester. There is nothing else particularly worthy of notice, except some vestiges of the Roman fosse, at a place called *Dorn*, within the limits of the parish; and a hill called the *Parks*, which is opposite to the vicar's garden, and is supposed to have been part of the episcopal park, which, with a palace, stood here before the Reformation. Blockley has a *Fair* on the Tuesday after Easter-week for a few cattle; and another on the

den and Plott consider as of Danish origin; but Gough seems of a different opinion, and considers it as British.

It now becomes rather difficult to ascertain the precise limits of the county; but we believe that we must here mention a very neat house, surrounded by pleasing plantations, the seat of Mr. Sandys; and an ancient castle looking place, called *Chastleton*, the seat of Mr. Jones.

ICCOMB is another detached spot, completely insulated by Gloucestershire. It has nothing particularly deserving of notice, except the ancient church, where there is a curious tomb of a knight in armour, surrounded by seven figures, some of which are in religious habits: it lies in a chapel on the south side, under a pointed arch in the wall, and in what is called "Cope's burying-place."

DAILSFORD is another detached part of the county, principally remarkable for containing the magnificent house and grounds of Mr. HASTINGS. The house stands in a most conspicuous and commanding situation, on a rising ground thickly covered with trees, and looking down upon a well wooded glen, which adds much to the beauty of the surrounding scenery. Its elevation is very handsome, and it is furnished in the most superb style; whilst the whole disposition of the house and grounds bespeak a high degree of taste, and elegant attention to their *capabilities*. The ancient manor-house, which, in the earliest times had been in the possession of the *Hastings* family, has long been in ruins; about a century ago, enough of it remained to shew its original magnificence; but now there is not a stone left to mark its site, which was about one hundred and fifty yards from the church. In consequence of the great number of skulls and bones dug up here, Dr. Nash is of opinion, that this had been the burying-place for most of the surrounding parishes; an idea not ill-founded, when we consider its extraordinary sanctity, being so highly favoured by the Roman Pontiff, as to be permitted to enjoy the full exercise of religious worship, at a time when the rest of the kingdom was under excommunication in the reign of John. Nash

In the year 1750, he was appointed a writer at Bengal, and as he says of himself, in his memorable defence, "I entered the service of the East India Company; and from that service I have derived all my official habits, all the knowledge which I possess, and all the principles which were to regulate my conduct in it."

But his modesty did not permit him to say how much he was indebted to his own exertions; for though at first attached to one of the factories in Bengal, yet he did not let the duties of his office, or the pursuit of pleasure in his leisure hours, prevent him from adding to his stock of classical and useful learning; and being sent into the interior, where the novelty of the scene awakened a spirit of enquiry, and where the want of society prompted him to study, he suffered no means of improvement to pass unprofitably. Here he applied himself assiduously to the study of the Persian language, to the general cultivation of his talents, and to a minute investigation of the nature and circumstances of British India. So great, and rapid indeed was his improvement, that he was soon after selected as the fittest person to attempt the establishment of a factory a long way in the interior, and where no European had hitherto ventured to penetrate. In this, it must be confessed he was not successful; yet it was evident that he did all that was possible to be done; for he conciliated the esteem of the natives to such an extent; that when he was taken prisoner by the troops of Surajah Dowlah, they shewed their respect for him in a manner hitherto unusual, treating him with repeated marks of humanity and attention. This was in 1756, after Surajah had made himself master of Calcutta; when Mr. Hastings was carried with many others to Moorsshedabad, but was immediately afterwards permitted to reside at the Dutch factory of Calcapore. After his release, he distinguished himself much as a volunteer in Lord Clive's army, and was present at the night attack on the Nabob's camp which again put Calcutta into our possession.

Surajah being dethroned, and Meer Jaffer, the lawful sovereign, reinstated on his throne, Mr. Hastings was selected by the dis-

cerning

his temper; nor did he ever in the slightest degree relax from his perseverance.

From the free, unsolicited, and honourable testimony of many respectable witnesses on his trial, it is plain that nothing but Mr. Hastings's cool and resolute counsels could have saved India from the grasp of France, and the intestine wars of the natives; particularly after the defeat of our army on the coast of Coromandel in the American war, when he roused every body from despondence, and by a judicious and well-timed supply of men and money to the Madras presidency, turned the scale of affairs completely in our favour. At the close of his administration, as a modern biographer observes, "In defiance of so many untoward circumstances, the Company's affairs now wore a better aspect. Their annual revenue was increased from three to five millions. Their enemies among the native princes were destroyed, or won to their alliance; and India had even something to offer to France towards the adjustment of peace for England." Yet on the 20th of June, 1785, the very day of Mr. Hastings's arrival in England, Mr. Burke, in the House of Commons, gave notice of his intention to move an impeachment of him in the ensuing session.

After undergoing a seven years' torture under the examination into twenty-two articles, after being the victim of misrepresentation in pathetic speeches, and his character torn to pieces by the press, the public at last found out that the whole was a political manœuvre; nay, it has been said, that previous to the impeachment, offers of coalition of parliamentary interest were made to him by the agents of that very party who afterwards ransacked both the English and Indian vocabularies for terms of reproach, and by the aid of unintelligible terms, and the statement of circumstances partly true, yet much of which, even if true, could not possibly have been known to them, succeeded for a while in painting him as one of the most horrid monsters of ancient or of modern times. Notwithstanding all this, the greatest number of peers who on their honours thought him guilty of any of the charges, was only

Tredington is the mother church; of course this is but a chapel or chantry. The town formerly belonged to the priory of Worcester, and is now the property of the Dean and Chapter.

Several attempts have been made to establish manufactures, but without any permanent success. A Mr. Harte once carried on a considerable work in the manufacture of *Shaggs*, and is said to have realized a fortune of 20,000*l.*; three-fourths of which he bequeathed to a nephew on condition of his carrying on the trade for the benefit of the place, on which principle he himself is said to have done it for several years: but the nephew soon found out some more profitable mode of disposing of the money.

The *Market* is on Friday; and here are two annual *Fairs*; one on the 22d of June; the other on the first Tuesday after the 10th of October; and both for horses, cows, and sheep.

TIDMERTON, within this detached portion of the county, contains nothing of topographical remark; but affords a memorable instance of the rewards, which, in this country of liberty, will always attend upon industry and integrity. We here allude to a Mr. Snow, who, beginning the world as a butcher, and then adding to this the business of a grazier, by means of extraordinary industry, a spirited line of dealing, and a most respectable character, realized a very considerable fortune, and served the office of high-sheriff of Worcester. His valuable estate in this neighbourhood, together with an elegant mansion, he left to his son, who long enjoyed as honourable a character as his father, in his profession as an attorney, improved the estate, and has now founded a family ranking with the most respectable in the neighbourhood.

Having thus concluded our general view of the county of Worcester, it remains for us to make such acknowledgements as are in our power, for the information received from, and the facilities of observation afforded by, the first families of the county, as well as those gentlemen to whom, in general, we have had occasion to apply. To name some few, whilst others, with a modesty which

A LIST

OF THE PRINCIPAL
BOOKS, MAPS, AND VIEWS,
THAT HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN

Illustration of the History, Topography, Antiquities, &c. of the County of
WARWICK.

WARWICKSHIRE has the honour of producing a native historian, whose work, by general suffrage, is placed at the head of county histories. Sir William Dugdale's "*Antiquities of Warwickshire, illustrated from Records, Leiger-Books, Manuscripts, Charters, Evidences, Tombs, and Armes: beautified with Maps, Prospects, and Portraitsures.* Lond. 1656. Fol." is not only valuable for its usually accurate statements of family descent, and transmissions of manorial property, but is assistant in the general history of Great Britain, by comprising disquisitions on the foundation and progress of the various religious orders, which, previous to the dissolution of monastic houses, possessed so important a share in the operations of the governing power. This work was reprinted in 2 vols. folio, Lond. 1730, from a copy "corrected by the author himself, and with the original copper-plates. The whole revised, augmented, and continued down to the present time, by William Thomas, D. D. sometime rector of Exhall, in the same county. With the addition of several prospects of gentlemen's seats, churches, tombs, and new and correct maps of the county, and of the several hundreds, from an actual survey made by Henry Beighton, F. R. S. Also complete Lists of the Members of Parliament, and Sheriffs, taken from the original Records; and an Alphabetical Index and Blazonry of the Arms upon the several Plates." Dr. Thomas is charged by Gough* with being careless in his accounts, and with taking little pains for information. It will be readily admitted that indefatigable industry, like that of the original author, might have done more towards the improvement of this edition. But still many errors are corrected, and much new matter is introduced, while some superstitious and fanciful opinions, incidental, perhaps, to the period at which the book was composed, are judiciously pointed out.

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* British Topography, Vol. II. p. 300.

LIST OF BOOKS &c.

In the fourth volume of the *Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica* are extracts from a book in the possession of the Corporation of Warwick, called the Black Book. These extracts comprehend the celebration of the order of St. Michael, by Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, at St. Mary's Church, in Warwick, anno 1571; The "Death and Buriall of the Marques Northampton", at Warwick, anno 1571; an account of "Queen Elizabeth's coming to Warwick in 1572;" and an order of Council to the Corporation of Warwick, to assist John Speed in his improvement on Saxton's Maps of Great Britain. The other parts of the Black Book consist principally of Corporation Accounts.

An Historical and Genealogical Account of the noble Family of Greville, to the time of Francis, the present Earl Brooke and Earl of Warwick; including the history and succession of the several Earls of Warwick since the Norman Conquest; and some account of Warwick Castle. (By Edmonson.) Lond. 1766. 8vo.

In the Bib. Top. Brit. Vol. IV. is a Memoir on the Story of Guy, Earl of Warwick, by the Rev. Samuel Peage, M. A. Read at the Society of Antiquaries, May 7, 1767. To the Memoir is prefixed a Print, representing the exact appearance of the statue of Guy, at Guy's Cliff, in the year 1782.

Warwick Castle, a poem, embellished with engravings, from drawings by J. Roe, of Warwick. Stratford-upon-Avon. 1812.

In "Brewer's Descriptions, Historical and Architectural, of splendid Palaces and celebrated Buildings," is an account of Warwick Castle, and a view of that edifice.

The History and Antiquities of the City of Coventry, from the earliest authentic period to the present time; comprehending a description of the antiquities, public buildings, remarkable occurrences, &c. embellished with engravings. Coventry: 1810. Duodecimo. This pleasing compilation was published in Numbers, and contains views of St. Michael's Church; the Cross which formerly ornamented Coventry; St. Mary's Hall; and the Whitefriars.

The History of Coventry, from a MS. "in the hands of Thomas Jesson. M. A. Chaplain of Christ Church, Oxford," is printed in Hearne's *Fordun*, p. 1438.

"Frere John Bredon, Frere minor of the Convent of Coventry, his recantation of his preaching and speaking against the Custome of the Cathedrall Church of Coventry, which used to have the apparail of every person deceased: whose corpse was first to be brought into that church." This Recantation was enjoined Friar John by the Lords in Parliament, anno 1446; and is printed at the end of *Leland's Collectanea*, Vol. V. p. 302-4.

An Account of the many and great Loans, Benefactions, and Charities, belonging to the City of Coventry: to which is annexed, a Copy of the decretal order of the Court of Chancery relative to the memorable Charity of Sir Thomas White. Lond. 1733. 8vo.

Y 3

A learned

* William Parr, brother of Queen Catharine Parr.

A learned, elegant, and religious Speech delivered unto his most excellent Majesty at his late being at Coventry. By Philemon Hobbins, Doctor of Physique; the right hon. the Recorder his deputy for the time. When as his royal Majesty was graciously pleased to grant and command the erecting a military garden therein; and others, to enlarge the aforesaid City's charter. Together with a Sermon preached in the audience, and published at the request of the worthy Company of the Practisers of the Military Garden of the well-governed city of Coventry. By Samuel Borge, B. D. and vicar Fellow of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. Lond. 1624.

In the Bib. Top. Brit. Vol. IV. is "A Narrative of a strange Religious Frenzy at Coventry, in an original Letter from Sir Thomas More. Communicated by Dr. Ducarel, F. R. and A. SS. from MS. in the Lambeth Library." This frenzy chiefly consisted in persuasion that he who said over the Blessed Virgin's Psalter every day could not possibly be damned.

In the first volume of "Britton's Architectural Antiquities of Great Britain," is a particular account of the Cross formerly at Coventry, with a view of that fine structure.

An History of Birmingham, by W. Hutton, F. A. S. S. Birmingham: printed and sold by Knott and Lloyd. One volume octavo. This lively and entertaining topographical work, which is embellished with several plans and views, has passed through four editions, the last of which bears the date of 1808, and has received considerable additions from the hand of the very respectable author. Mr. T. Knott, jun. of Birmingham, is making arrangements for a fifth edition, continued to the present time, which is to be illustrated with fresh engravings (now executing,) from the hands of native artists.

A *Sketch, or Directory*, for the town of Birmingham, improved through new editions, is published by J. Labor, of Birmingham.

A true Relation of Prince Rupert's barbarous cruelty against the Town of Birmingham, &c. Lond. 1642. 4to.

Prince Rupert's burning Love to England, discovered in Birmingham's Flames: or, a more exact and true Narration of Birmingham's Calamities, under the barbarous and inhumane cruelties of Prince Rupert's Forces, &c. Lond. 1643. 4to.

History and Antiquities of Stratford-upon-Avon: comprising a Description of the Collegiate Church; the Life of Shakespeare; and Copies of several Documents relating to him and his Family, never before printed. With a Biographical Sketch of other eminent Characters, natives of, or who have resided in Stratford. To which is added, a particular Account of the Jubilee, celebrated at Stratford in honour of our immortal Bard. By R. R. Wheeler. Embellished with eight Engravings.

Mr. Thomas Fisher, of Hinton, made accurate drawings of the French Paintings recently discovered on the walls of the Chapel of the Holy Cross at Stratford. These have been since executed in outline at the Polytechnographic Press of Mr. Vosecker; and the Copies, con-

tinued.

LIST OF BOOKS, &c.

loured after the originals, are now publishing. The completion of this undertaking cannot fail to be much desired by the antiquarian part of the public.

An Account of an Analysis made on the Stratford Mineral Water, comprehending near thirty different Experiments, &c. &c. By Charles Perry, M. D. Northampton, 1744. 8vo.

Some "Short Remarks" on the above Pamphlet, by William Baylies, jun. were published in 1745.

Avon, a Poem, in three Parts, (by Mr. Huckel, who died in 1771.) Birmingham, printed by John Baskerville, 1758. 4to.

Welcombe-hills, near Stratford upon Avon. A Poem, Historical and Descriptive, by John Jordan, of Stratford, Wheelwright. Lond. 1777. 4to.—A View of the Hills is prefixed.

Hydrologia Philosophica : or an Account of Ilmington Waters, in Warwickshire, with directions for drinking of the same, &c. &c. by Samuel Derham, Bachelor in Physic, lately of Magdalen Hall, Oxford, 1685, 8vo.

Manduessedum Romanorum : being the History and Antiquities of the Parish of Manceter (including the Hamlets of Hartshill, Oldbury, and Atherstone) and also of the adjacent Parish of Ansley, in the County of Warwick. By the late Benjamin Bartlett, Esq. F. A. S. Enlarged and corrected under the inspection of several gentlemen resident upon the spot. 4to. Lond. 1791.*

In the Gentleman's Magazine for September and October, 1762, occur Essays towards the Natural History of Sutton Coldfield; and some Remarks on a particular passage in the first of those Essays are contained in Mr. Hutton's History of Birmingham.

"A genuine Translation of the Royal Charter granted by K. Henry VIII. to the Corporation of Sutton Coldfield," was printed in 1763, by Mr. Thomas Bonell, an Attorney in that Town.

"A Letter, wherein part of the Entertainment unto the Queen's Majesty, at Killingworth Castle, in Warwickshire, in this soomerz progress, 1575, is signified, from a Freend, Officer, attendant in Coourt, unto his Freend, a Citizen and Merchant of London." Signed at the end by "R. L." (R. Laneham) "Gent. Mercer, Merchant Adventurer, and Clark of the Councel Chamber Door; and also Keeper of the same."

The "Pleasures at Kenelworth Castle, where Q. Elizabeth was entertained," are inserted in the "Whole Works of George Gascoigne, Esq. newly compyled into one volume;" and there is, likewise, a Tract intituled "The Princelie Pleasures of Kenelworth Castle."

"A concise History and Description of Kenelworth Castle, from its Foundation to the present time," was printed in 1777, as a Guide

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to

* A large Extract of this interesting Publication is included in the fourth Volume of Mr. Nichols's History of Leicestershire; in which work is, likewise, a Map and Survey of Manduessedum, with part of the fields adjoining, made in October, 1812, by Ralph Thompson, of Witherley.

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Observations on the Antiquity and use of Beacons, occasioned by the Discovery of an ancient Painting in the Church of Burton Dassett, I. 1—7

Observations on two Jewels discovered at Compton Murdoch, alias Compton Verney, III. 371—375.

An account of Roman Coins discovered within the Manor of Knowle, VII. 413.

The Rates of Wages of all manner of Artificers, Labourers, and Servants, as appointed at the General Quarter Sessions holden at Warwick in the 36th of Charles II. from the original in the Possession of Mr. Nichols, XI. 208—211.

An account of two Urns and a Skeleton, found near Alcester, XVII. 332—333.

In the Register Book of the Royal Society, for 1661, is inserted a *Brief Account of the supposed Rain of Wheat in Warwickshire*. See Birch's History of the Royal Society, Vol. I. p. 32. This shower principally took place at Tachbrook, near Warwick. On investigation it appeared that the supposed Wheat was really the Seed of Ivy Berries; and the Seed was conjectured to have been dropped by Starlings, which Birds are well known to assemble in great Numbers.

PRINTS AND PLANS.

In Stukeley's Itinerary is a Prospect of Warwick. Stukeley del. Fletcher sc.

Gough mentions "an undated View of the Town, from a Drawing by J. Fish, of Warwick."

Buck engraved, in 1729, a large S.E. View of this Town; and S.E. and N.E. Views of the Castle.

In Edmonson's History of the Greville Family are *Plans of the Castle*, copied by Grose for his Antiquities.

P. Sandby engraved, in Aquatinta, in 1776, *Cæsar's Tower*, and Part of Warwick Castle, from the Island; *Elevation of the Castle*, from the S.E.; *The Castle from the Bridge Hill*; and the entrance of the Castle, from the Tower Court.

Views of Kenilworth and Warwick, by Smith of Chichester, 1724.

There is a View of Warwick Castle in "Gilpin's Northern Tour."

Views of Warwick Castle, Kenilworth, and Stoneleigh Abbey, from Drawings by Mr. J. Barber, of Birmingham, 1812.

Four Views in Leamington, etched by W. Radclyffe, from Drawings by O'Neil.

In

LIST OF BOOKS, &c.

Buck likewise published Views of Nun Eaton Nunnery; of Tamworth Castle; and of Aston and Honington Halls.

In the "Antiquarian and Topographical Cabinet," are the following Prints relating to this County:—

The Antique Vase at Warwick Castle; several Views of the Castle and Priory at Kenilworth; The West Gate, and St. James's Chapel, Warwick; The Castle and Bridge, Warwick; St. Peter's Chapel, Warwick; Guy's Cliff, and the ancient Statue of Guy, Earl of Warwick; Charter House, near Coventry, and an antient House and Sculpture in the City of Coventry.—In a Supplement to the above Work, termed "Ancient Relics," are these Views:—Coventry; St. Michael's Church, Coventry; White Friar's, Coventry; Exterior and Interior of St. Mary's Hall.

In Vitruvius Britannicus are the following Views and Plans besides those already noticed:—Vol. II. Plate 94. Newbold Hall, "the Seat of Sir Fulwar Skipwith, Bart." Vol. V. 43, 44. Lord Willoughby De Broke's House at Compton Murdoch.

MAPS.

"Saxton's Map, including Leicestershire, and wanting the Hundreds, was engraved by Leonard Tervooort, 1576."

Speed's Map, 1610, has Plans of Warwick and Coventry.

Henry Beighton, F. R. S. who resided at *Griff*, began a Survey of this County in 1725, and finished it in 1729. Mr. Beighton was a man of considerable talent, and of equal industry. It is, therefore, to be regretted that, when he issued Proposals for publishing a Map of Warwickshire, "on two Sheets of large Paper, about forty-three inches deep, and thirty broad," at the moderate Price of five Shillings in Sheets, he met with so little encouragement that the design was not carried into effect during his life-time. Mr. Beighton's widow, about the year 1750, published by Subscription, his Survey, in two Sheets, with the several Emendations left by him at his death; and also the same Survey reduced to a single Sheet.

There are, likewise, Maps by Kitchin, and by Jeffereys.

About a third Portion of the Tapestry, formerly at Weston, consists of a Map of this County. Gough observes, "that if the Maps worked on this Tapestry are not copied from Saxton, their large Scale, and minute detail, is an improvement on the first effort of Map-making among us. They are the earliest Specimens of Tapestry-weaving in England, which was first introduced by William Sheldon, in the reign of Henry VIII. and it is not improbable that he intended to unite the Memorial of two new Discoveries." *

A Map of Warwickshire, drawn from an actual Survey taken in the years 1787, 1788, 1789, by William Yates and sons, for John Sharp. This Map, which is in four Sheets, and on the Scale of one inch to a Mile, is coarsely executed, and is altogether far from being of a satisfactory character.

* Brit. Topography, Vol. II. 310.

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Additions and Corrections to the Account of Warwickshire.

Page 24, line 20, for ' east' read west.

Relying on the account of Dr. Nehemiah Grew contained in the *Biographia Britannica* (the author of which article quotes for authority, Wood's *Athen. edit.* 1721) we have, in page 173, described that learned physician as a native of Coventry. Nehemiah Grew was, however, born at Atherstone, and was baptized at Manchester, Sep. 26, 1641.



A
LIST

OF THE PRINCIPAL
BOOKS, MAPS, AND PRINTS,

WHICH HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED

Illustrative of the Topography, Antiquities, &c.
OF WORCESTERSHIRE ;

TOGETHER WITH

*Notices of the most important MSS. for general reference,
now preserved in the British Museum, relative
to that County.*

BOOKS.

NASH'S SURVEY OF WORCESTERSHIRE, 2 Vols. folio. This recent and extensive work has been founded on the Collections of Thomas Abingdon, of Hendlip, Esq. consisting of three folio volumes of Parochial History, alphabetically arranged, two folios of Miscellaneous Antiquities, and one relative to the cathedral. To these MSS. Collections, considerable additions were made by the Author's son, and also by Dr. Thomas, who sold them to Bishop Lyttelton, together with a folio volume of patrons and incumbents. The Bishop bequeathed them to the Society of Antiquaries, who entrusted them to Dr. Nash for publication ; but he having merely made selections, these MSS. are now in the hands of a gentleman, well qualified, both from erudition and perseverance, to give them to the world in a perfect shape.

THE ANTIQUITIES OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF WORCESTER. By that learned antiquary, Thomas Abingdon, Esq. To which are added, the Antiquities of the Cathedral Churches of Chichester and Lichfield." Lond. 1717, and 1723, 8vo.

A SURVEY OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF WORCESTER : with an account of the bishops thereof, from the foundation of the see to the year 1600 ; also an appendix of many original papers and records, never before printed. By William Thomas, D. D. Rector of St. Nicholas, Worcester. Lond. 1727." 4to.

A SURVEY OF THE CITY OF WORCESTER, containing the Ecclesiastical history, and civil government thereof, as originally founded, and the present administration as since reformed ; together with an account of whatever is most remarkable for grandeur, elegance, curiosity, or use, in this ancient City. The whole embellished with sixteen copper-plates of perspective views of the public buildings,
2 C 2 &c.

"A Journey into Worcestershire." A Poem in Sir William Davenant's Works. 1673.

Wardley, a descriptive poem, in blank verse, by the Rev. Mr. E. Cooper, of Droitwyche," may be found in the '*Grand Magazine*' for the year 1759.

"Hagley, a descriptive poem. By Mr. Maurice. Lond. 1777."

In the PHILOSOPHICAL TRANSACTIONS, several papers may be found relative to this county: these are

Ward's Observations on an ancient date on Edgar's tower, near the Cathedral. No. 439.

Dr. Beale's account of the Medical Waters, near the foot of Malvern hills, and others in Flint and Somersetshire: these are in Nos. 20, and 57. . .

Dr. Wall, physician at Worcester, has published Experiments and Observations on the Malvern Waters, which may be found in Vols. XLIX. and L. He has also published an octavo pamphlet on the same subject, with an appendix, containing various cases illustrative of their effects.

PRINTS.

A variety of Maps and Plates have appeared, descriptive of this county; we need only particularly mention,

North front and Plan of Worcester Cathedral, by Hollar, 1672.

North view of the Abbey gate, by Buck, 1731.

South-west view of the City, by Buck, 1732.

Plan of Worcester, by J. Dougharty, 1742.

East and West prospects of the City, 1742. With lists of the mayors. Sold by T. Jefferys.

View of Worcester, by P. Sandby. Exhibited at the Royal Academy, in 1772.

Four views of Worcester; engraved by Saunders. 1777.

Edgar's Tower: engraved after Grose, by Godfrey. 1773.

Guildhall, at Worcester; by J. Dougharty, Surveyor.

East and West views, and a Plan of the new Infirmary, drawn by Keck, and engraved by Hancock.

North prospect of the church of Little Malverne, with its ruins, engraved by J. Mynde.

An exact plan of Kidderminster, surveyed by J. Dougharty, jun. 1753, engraved by Jefferys: this contains the new streets then intended to be built.

Evesham Abbey gate and tower; by Grose and Sparrow, 1775, on two plates.

Evesham Abbey gate and tower, by Valentine Greene, of Worcester, and was exhibited at the Royal Academy, in 1775.

Crome Court, the seat of Lord Coventry, is engraved in the fifth volume of *Vitr. Britan.*

Hartlebury Castle; an east view, by Buck, in 1731.

South prospects of the parish churches of Powick and Abberley, have been engraved by J. Mynde.

North prospect of *White Ladies*, then the seat of Richard Cooksey, Esq. has also been engraved by the same artist.

Dudley Priory; a south-west view, by Buck, in 1731.

Two views of the same Priory, by Grose and Sparrow, in 1774.

A Plan of the river Salwarp, and of the then intended canal from Droitwich to the Severn, was published from the Survey, in 1767; this was drawn by R. Whitworth, and engraved by Westwood of Birmingham. A small copy of it may be seen in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for November, 1771.

Stourport has been delineated in a south-west prospect, or perspective view of the buildings, barns, and locks, the bridge over the Severn, and the conjunction of the Worcestershire and Staffordshire canal with that river. This was drawn by J. Sheriff, and engraved by Peter Mazell, in 1776.

MAPS.

Saxton's Map of this county was engraved 1677, but without the hundreds; which were afterwards added in Speed's map, and also a plan of the City.

In 1756, E. Bowen published another map.

Isaac Taylor published a map in four sheets, in 1772.

Cary, Smith, &c. have latterly published several maps of this county; but these do not require any particular illustration.

Many views of various parts of the county have appeared in recent publications: for these we must refer to "*Ireland's picturesque views on the Severn and Avon.*" &c. &c. &c.

MANUSCRIPTS.

"ORIGINAL REGISTER OF WORCESTER ABBEY." This was in the possession of Mr. Astle, and we believe is still in his library; where also may be found another curious work,

"*Liber inrotulatorius et consuetudinaris prioratus beate Marie de Wigorn.*" This is interesting from its containing all the articles of enquiry directed by order of William the Conqueror to the Sheriff of the county, preparatory to the drawing up of *Domesday Book*.

HARLEIAN MSS. BRITISH MUSEUM.

No. 1043. Containing, 1. A list of the Justices of the Peace in Worcestershire, A. D. 1601.—2. List of the High Sheriffs of the County of Worcester, from An. 1. R. Henry II. to An. 17 R. J. 1. inclusive.—3. The Justices of the Peace in Com. Worcester, A. D.

A. D. 1620.—5. Arms of certain ancient Worcestershire Knights.—7. The Visitation of the County of Worcester, as taken A. D. 1569, by Robert Cooke, Esq. Clarenceux King of Arms.

No. 595. Containing, 13. Names of the then present bishops, chancellor, or registrar, rural deaneries, parishes, chapels, vicarages, &c. in Worcestershire, in 1563.—also 29. The certificate relating the state of the diocese, written in pursuance of the Archbishop's mandate, of 1603.

No. 965. Containing, 16. Mr. Symond's church notes, taken about the year 1644, in Worcester Cathedral, College, Cloisters, and Treasury.

No. 2129. Containing, 215. notes taken in Worcestershire, by Mr. Augustine Vincent, about the year 1640.

No. 1566. Containing, 2. The Visitation of the County of Worcester, made, in 1569, by Robert Cooke, Clarenceux, continued and enlarged with, 3. many additional pedigrees entered, by Mr. Mundy, with other additions and enlargements, by Mrs. Robert Dale, and by Mr. Latton, down to the year 1634: also, 4. Arms of many of the Worcestershire Gentry, with church notes, &c. &c.

No. 1457. Containing, 14. arms of the Gentry of the County of Worcester.

No. 2205. Containing the arms, monuments, and inscriptions in the Cathedral; also at Great and Little Malverne, and the churches in Evesham. This has no date, but seems to be an early collection.

No. 5814. Exhibiting the descents and pedigrees of families in the County of Worcester, with their arms tricked, and an alphabetical Index, containing, also, grants and family history.

No. 6180. Containing the arms and pedigrees of families in the county of Worcester, beginning in the year 1633.

No. 6274. Containing, 11. a dialogue concerning alterations in the charter of Bewdley with respect to the returning officer at Elections for members of parliament, with the petition of the burgesses, &c.

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1. The first step is to identify the problem. This involves understanding the situation and the goals that need to be achieved.

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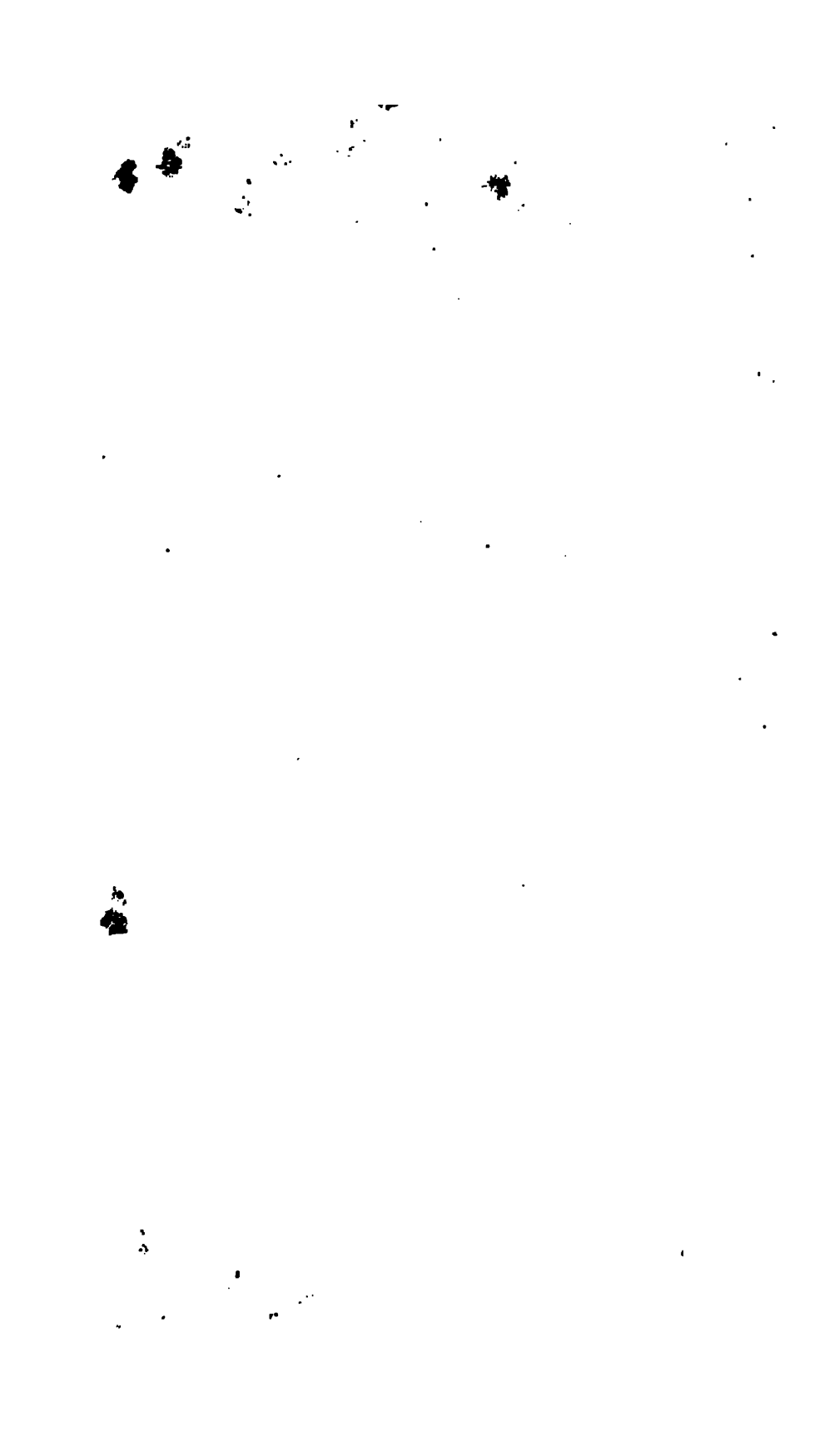
Y.

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ERRATA.

pages. lines.

- | | | |
|-----|----|---|
| 3 | 3 | for "Country," read County. |
| 30 | 18 | The first note refers to "Meyssey." |
| 43 | 4 | for "dark," read darks. |
| 50 | 20 | for "effect," read affect. |
| 67 | 3 | from bottom, for "surpluses," read surplus. |
| 64 | 22 | for "Wahla," read Hobbes. |
| 67 | 6 | from bottom, after "memory," dele "of," |
| 90 | 13 | for "was," read were. |
| 131 | | at bottom, for "Sapphiza," read Sapphism. |
| 135 | 18 | for "removed," read returned. |
| 139 | 3 | for "that," read these. |
| 194 | 3 | for "towns" read towers. |
| 203 | 10 | for "there," read then. |
| 206 | 3 | for "Schrecker," read Schrecker. |
| 217 | 7 | after "George," dele the semicolon. |
| 221 | 21 | for "destroy," read destroy. |
| 242 | 19 | in "Witchburyhill," dele the s. |
| 245 | 14 | for "Loma," read Loma. |
| 255 | | is misnumbered 255. |
| 272 | 24 | for "Palace," read place. |
| 316 | 19 | of the note, dele the period after "Wil." |
| 342 | 2 | for "contain," read contain. |
| 347 | 7 | from bottom, for "her," read here. |
| | 4 | from bottom, after "Lechmeres," insert a semicolon. |
| 394 | 21 | insert a in "parliamentary." |









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